

THE ZOIST.

No. XXVI.

JULY, 1849.

I. *An Account of the Head of Rush, the Norfolk Murderer.*

By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

THE true nature of Rush cannot be mistaken. It is certain that he was, in every respect, an atrocious villain, and a villain of extraordinary force of character. His acts were such that his whole nature is unveiled: and, if the development of his head had not agreed according to Gall's principles with his life, Gall's physiology of the brain must have fallen to the ground for ever. For a cerebral physiologist may always, without fear, assert positively of the head from constant, positive, exhibition of a mental faculty, because constant strength of certain parts of the mind is accompanied by strong development of certain parts of the brain, and consequently of the skull; just as he may always fearlessly assert negatively of the mental faculties from negative exhibitions of the head, because deficient development of certain parts of the brain, and consequently of the skull, is accompanied by deficient strength of certain mental faculties: although, conversely, he would not assert respecting mental faculties from positive exhibitions of the head, nor respecting the head from negative exhibitions of mental faculties, because the development of the head may arise from other causes than brain, or the quality of the brain may not be healthy; and on the other hand deficiency of the manifestation of certain mental faculties may arise from mere want of excitement or from disease.* Therefore, before we saw the cast of Rush's head, we all declared that his head must have been very large;—the organs of the disposition to violence, of courage, and of the love of property, of cun-

* See my *Human Physiology*, pp. 373-4. I lament to say that mine is the only Physiology in the English language that sets forth and defends phrenology and mesmerism.

ning, of the love of the opposite sex, and of food, enormously large; while those of self-esteem and love of notoriety, with the lower range of intellectual organs, must have been large; and, provided the brain were healthy, the organs of justice and caution, and the higher intellectual organs, small.

The man was a farmer, land agent, and auctioneer and appraiser, in West Norfolk; of middle age, rather below the middle height, very muscular, with broad shoulders, short neck, massive head inclined rather to the right shoulder, and a slouching gait, and a countenance which made people dislike him and say they should not wish to meet him in the dark.

On the evening of the 28th of last November, he went, masked and otherwise disguised, and without any accomplice, to Stanfield Hall, the house of a neighbouring gentleman, named Jermy, whom he shot dead in the porch, where he knew his victim would be at that time; entered the house by the servants' door and shot the son dead in the hall, coolly and successfully motioning the butler to retire to his pantry; and then shot and wounded the mistress and her maid, saying, "Poor thing, poor thing!" when he saw the latter fall whom he had not aimed at, and firing a second time at Mrs. Jermy. He also pursued Miss Jermy, but she escaped into the stables. He then withdrew to his own home. These may not have been the only murders committed by him.—In 1844, he and his father-in-law had been shooting at the farm of the latter, and, after returning to the house, his father was shot. The account given by Rush was, that, after directing his father's attention to the excellence of his gun, he left the room while his father was examining it, but almost immediately heard a report, and on going back found that the gun had gone off, lodging all its contents in his father's head.—In August, 1848, his mother having been ill for some time, he told her nurse one evening, as the woman reports, that he would sit up with his mother that night, and on the woman's objecting he insisted. After the nurse had been in bed some time, she saw Rush enter her room, as if he wished to ascertain whether she was asleep. He made no remark and went away. About four in the morning he went into the room again, and she asked how her mistress was. "Oh," he replied, "you need not trouble yourself, she has been dead these four hours." The nurse jumped up, and found that Rush had laid his mother out and performed all the necessary offices himself.—A salesman, named Collins, who had done business for Rush, and at whose house Rush had once spent a day and night, returned the visit at Rush's earnest invitation, though Mrs. Collins strongly objected to her husband going and said there was something

about Rush's manner that she did not like. Indeed, Mr. Jermy, jun., had an inconceivable dislike to Rush, and often warned his father against him : and Mrs. Jermy disapproved of Rush going to the house whenever he chose without ringing. On the very night of Mr. Collins's arrival, Rush's wife was taken ill. Rush went to Mr. Collins's room and told him of this, begging him at the same time to come down stairs. Mr. Collins asked whether he had sent for a doctor. Rush said no, it would be useless, for she was too ill for any one to do her good. Before morning she was dead.—A man and woman slept one night a few years ago at an inn about Shoreditch. In the night the woman was taken ill and died. The man represented himself as a Norfolk farmer but did not give his name, alleging that the woman was a person he had picked up that day in town. She was said, by a medical man, to have died of diseased heart ; but with what good reason is not known. When likenesses of Rush were published lately, the landlord recognized the face as that of the man who had slept at the inn on that occasion.—He had a child last year by a young woman, named Emily Sandford, whom he seduced and was keeping at his farm at the time of the murder of the Messrs. Jermy, sen. and jun., but it soon died.—A woman, named Sims, settled comfortably in a farm, was advised by Rush to give it up ; and he got possession of the proceeds, and ultimately made away with them all. This seriously depressed her spirits ; she went to live at Stanfield Hall farm, not far from Rush, and was found dead in her bed one morning.—He was very violent, bursting out into a rage, not only in private, but at his trial and in prison. His cruelty was exhibited in the unfeeling manner in which he cross-examined Emily Sandford—the chief victim of his lust, and even in 1846 he had declared it would not be long before he served Mr. Jermy with an ejectment for the other world. His revengeful feeling led him to compass the destruction, not of the husband only, but of the wife, the son, and daughter. He wrote to Mr. Jermy thus,—

“ You have completely ruined me as far as my own property goes. If you think I shall not take steps to ruin you and your family, you never were more deceived in your life. You do not know me yet. Hitherto, I have done but what I have told you of ; but unless you answer this letter satisfactorily, nothing on earth shall prevent me from treading in your steps, and paying you off in the same base coin that you have me.”

As to courage, or combativeness, which is courage in excess, Mr. Beattie—the sincere and useful lecturer on mesmerism and cerebral physiology—informs me that a friend of his sat

on the same bench with Rush at school, and that Rush was always ready to fight any boy for a penny, and was nicknamed "Gully" by the boys for his propensity to fight. In after life he frequented fighting cribs. His great courage was manifested in his bold attacks upon Mr. Jermy's family, unaided by any accomplice, and when all were up and stirring; by his unaided defence on the trial, before council, judge, and witnesses, and the whole world, during six long days; and the steadiness of his demeanour at his execution, for his step never faltered as he regularly marched to his doom, and, when the rope was adjusting, he said coolly, "This does not go easy, put the thing a little higher,—take your time,—don't be in a hurry," and these were his last words; and his courage was as striking at the trial.

"As witness after witness cut away every fragment of a chance, his nerves seemed to become more firmly strong, and his resolution more unassailable. While every eye was turned on him with loathing—while on every side his gaze must have rested on a mass of faces breathing but one sentiment—on pen and pencil busily engaged in writing the lines which proclaimed his atrocity to the world—on artists recording the lineaments of his features for the gratification of every vulgar crowd, and for the ornament of every village ale-house—while he knew he stood there, unsentenced and untried, Rush, the murderer,—he looked about him with an unshrinking eye; arranged his papers as coolly as if he were engaged in a college thesis, and never gave one single minute touch which showed he felt fear or compunction. In fact, he was a sort of rustic Richard the Third—bloody, resolute, and cruel. If country stories be true, he was familiar with deeds of murder, and impunity had made him secure and foolhardy. A father-in-law, a mother, and a wife, are generally believed to be among the number of his victims. They all died under circumstances of great suspicion. It was curious to mark the speculative curiosity in his eye, as the judge was about to put on the black cap; he looked like an indifferent spectator who had never seen the awful ceremony before, and was anxious to observe it closely. Indeed, some parts of the evidence, which were purely circumstantial and ingenious, seemed to interest him much in the same way. For instance, that important evidence respecting the covers on which the notices were written. This remarkable piece of evidence was evidently regarded by the prisoner with a sort of admiration, though it had the greatest possible weight against him."

His love of gain appeared in his extreme energy in business and his engaging in far more concerns than he had the means or the time to conduct efficiently. He had many actions successfully brought against him for breach of covenants, and his endless pecuniary transactions appear to have been characterized by grasping and roguery. His murderous attack upon the Jermys was partly to obtain property fraudulently and to

escape the obligation of payment, as well as to gratify revenge, —which revenge, however, arose from being opposed by Mr. Jermy in his attempts to defraud that gentleman, with whom he had many pecuniary transactions and whose tenant he was as well as debtor: he would have been called upon to pay a considerable sum to Mr. Jermy in a day or two after the time of the murder. He prevailed upon Emily Sandford to forge documents relative to Mr. Jermy's property and himself.

His cunning was displayed on all occasions; it mixed itself with every act of his life; he did nothing without artifice. He wished to appear a marvellously religious man. In his cross-examination he continually urged religious considerations upon the witnesses to induce them by perplexing them to speak the truth, as he called it, but which would have been a perversion of truth. He attended places of worship with some regularity; listened attentively and with deep emotion; sometimes disturbing the congregation with sighs and sobs; took the sacrament; and had family prayers read every morning, even while he was arranging his murders. When two persons, Larnier and Jermy, were at his house that he might aid them in a claim upon Mr. Jermy's estate, and he was laying his plans to fix the future murders upon them, he joined with them, upon his knees, in family prayer. In his cross-examination of his victim, Emily Sandford, he impudently asked her, "Have I not given you passages of Scripture that I said would sanction the way in which we lived together? Did I not say also, that God Almighty would forgive us that sin, if we committed no other?" "Have you not invariably, before coming to bed to me, knelt down, and, to all appearance to me, said your prayers?" "In his house was a box designed for the collection of money for a society in London called The Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews, and to this he invariably called upon his friends to contribute." He made himself in company he considered a nice man, and soon got round innocent unsuspecting women.

In addition to what has been incidentally mentioned in regard to another part of his character, we are told that, when younger, "he was known among his companions as a libertine, and few have carried out so regularly and universally, in this particular, the desires of a depraved and sensual appetite. He made a boast of seduction, and many a heart and many a family have been saddened by his criminal atrocities. When thoroughly set upon a purpose of this kind, he was to be deterred by no difficulty: he would undertake journeys, lay plans, execute manœuvres, resort to enterprize, persuasion, flattery, falsehood." After the death of his wife, who bore

him nine children, he advertised for a lady to take the educational charge of his offspring, and four young women filled the situation in succession, Emily Sandford being the last and not the only victim among them.

His attention to taking his food was strikingly shewn by his words in the "condemned" cell after sentence was passed. "Where's my supper?" he exclaimed; "I want my supper after a hard day's work. I shall now live at the country's expense:" no refreshment being ready, he threw himself upon the bed. On the Saturday before his trial he wrote the following letter to Mr. Leggatt:—

"Norwich, 24th March, 1849.

"Sir,—You will oblige me by sending my breakfast this morning, and my dinner about the time your family have their's. Send any thing you like *except Beef*, and I shall like cold meat as well as hot, and meal bread; and the tea in a pewter mug (if with a cover on the better). I will trouble you to provide for me now, if you please, till after my trial; and if you could get me a small sucking pig in the market to-day, and roast for me on Monday, I should like that cold as well as hot after Monday, and it would always be in readiness for me, as it will be so uncertain what time I then have for my meals after Monday. Have the pig cooked in the same way as you usually have, and send plenty of plum sauce with it. Mr. Penson will pay you for what I have of you. By complying with the above, *you will very much oblige,*

"Your humble and obedient servant,

"James B. Rush.

"Mr. Leggatt, Bell Inn,
"Oxford-street, Norwich."

However great was his cunning, he was deficient in cautiousness. His enjoyments beyond his means, his idea of murdering the Jermys and not being at once suspected,* his not reflecting that the sensation would be intense and the murderer be ultimately detected, the defence of himself on his trial and his absurd mode of conducting, all exhibited a great deficiency of caution: as indeed did his whole life. He was always sly, but never prudent; just like so many bad men who form a false idea of the sources of true happiness. In assuming the appearance of innocence and piety in jail, he so overacted his part as clearly to shew his hypocrisy.

His want of justice or conscientiousness was equally great with his want of prudence.

He must have had a high opinion of himself or he would not have taken so much upon himself in business, nor relied

* As soon as the murder was known, all fixed upon Rush as the criminal, and the officers of justice repaired to his house early in the morning.

upon his own strength for his defence. Throughout life he had been fond of self-reliance.

His love of approbation contributed no doubt to his religious hypocrisy, and was exhibited to the last in his protestation of innocence. His constant language in prison was, "Thank God, I am quite comfortable in body and mind; I eat well, drink well, and sleep well." After his committal, he was constant in his attendance at chapel, and soon requested to have the sacrament administered to him privately. He pretended to sleep beautifully when he positively did not at all on the last night of his life. When the chaplain urged him on the morning of execution to repent of his crime, he replied, "God knows my heart; He is my judge, and you have prejudged me;" and when the chaplain and a dissenting minister at a late hour urged confession and repentance, he began to quarrel violently with them, and the governor entered the chapel and pinioned him. He once coolly asked if they had begun to put up that machine (the gallows), and, having no answer, said he hoped it would be a fine day. He walked to the gallows in black, with patent leather boots, and his scrupulously white shirt collar folded down, turning his face from the crowd to the castle wall. He had always made himself so agreeable to a respectable party that he was considered an acquisition.

He was, notwithstanding, not destitute of kind feeling, of love for his offspring, or of veneration. When he found he had wounded the maid-servant, who had nobly come forward to defend her mistress when terrified at the reports as the two Mr. Jermys fell, he exclaimed, "Poor thing, poor thing!" and certainly from no other reason than pity, for he ran a risk of his voice being recognized, and could not be attempting to make any one suppose that he regretted it: pity only will explain it. He was liked by his workmen. At church he would be as unconcerned as a rock while future punishment was dwelt upon; but, when a dying Christ was the topic, he would be greatly affected, and nothing but this seemed to cause emotion in him at church.

He stole a cheque for £40 during his trial: and absolutely denied all knowledge of it till he became satisfied that it would be appropriated to his children if found: and he then took it forth from behind the lining of his hat. He was much moved when the Rev. Mr. Andrews brought certain family matters to his recollection, and his spirit for a time seemed subdued. He was a very indulgent father.

Many a bandit, both robber and murderer, has been religious: that is, he has firmly believed all the supernatural ac-

counts and opinions inculcated on him, and worshipped and humbled himself sincerely in prayer. How many of the religious world around us are all uncharitableness in denouncing others not of the same fancies, malicious, and most given to creature comforts, even to sensuality, so as to be Christians moving upon velvet: and yet are sincerely religious, that is, are strangers to the principles of Christ, but, like Calvin, fancy themselves to be Christians.* That, as in Rush, there is a great admixture of cant and hypocrisy in the religious world, cannot be doubted: but how much, it is not always easy to determine. Gall says,

"When devotion is found in men endowed, in other respects, with qualities which do not appear very appropriate to it, or which are even diametrically opposed to it, we usually accuse those men of hypocrisy, or at least of acting for some sinister purpose. We can scarcely believe that it was in good faith that Gustavus Adolphus and Suwarrow, on the eve of a battle, themselves performed and commanded their armies to perform the most severe religious exercises, prayers, fasts, &c., either to obtain a general absolution, or to ensure the victory.

"Gabrino Rienzi was generally accused of being an impostor, a hypocrite, and of making religion serve his purposes by employing revelations and visions to authorize his ambition and cruelty. The inspection of his portrait explains all the contrasts of his conduct.

"Now that we understand how the most revolting contradictions may subsist in the same individual, we shall no longer be astonished at seeing the devotees, Louis XI., and Philip II., commit all acts of cruelty, make *auto-da-fés*, and, with their own hands, perform the functions of the executioner. Again, it is organology alone which gives the most reasonable explanation of the horrors of the holy inquisition.

"The life of the conqueror Cromwell is an enigma to most of his biographers. Was his devotion real? was it a calculation of hypocrisy? M. Villemain expresses himself as follows when speaking of Cromwell's mysticism:—†

"That official mysticism, if we may so term it, employed by Cromwell in his communications with parliament, is found at the same period in his private letters. Must we, from this fact, suppose with Voltaire, that Cromwell was for a long period really a fanatic, and that he became a hypocrite in proportion as his mind was sharpened by the progress of his power? or must we believe that Cromwell, like Mahomet, made his first dupes amongst his own family, and began, by their delusion, the imposture which he desired to extend around him?

"The following are some of the religious letters which Cromwell, already powerful and celebrated, wrote to members of his family.

* See my *Human Physiology*, p. 195.

† "History of Cromwell, vol. i., p. 404.

The first, dated in 1646, is addressed to his daughter Bridges:—

“Dear daughter,—Your sister Claypole is tormented by some uneasy thoughts (I confide in the mercy of the Lord); she sees her own vanity and the carnal disposition of her soul; she laments it, and seeks that which must satisfy her. Thus to seek is to belong to the most happy sect, after that which finds, as every humble and faithful seeker must do. *Happy seeker! happy finder!* Who has ever tasted how gentle is the Lord, without experiencing some returns of self-love and feebleness? Who has ever enjoyed this kindness of God, and could become less zealous in his desire, and less urgent to obtain the full enjoyment of the Lord. My dear love, always pursue the Lord: let not thy husband nor anything else in the world cool thy affection for Jesus Christ. I hope he will be an occasion of exciting them still more in thee. What is most worthy of love in thy husband is that he bears in him the image of Jesus Christ; fix there thine eyes; behold what must be beloved before all things, and every thing else for that,’ &c.

“Another letter of Cromwell, to his wife, presents the same character and is not less curious:—

“My very dear ———, I am rejoiced at learning that thy soul prospers, and that the Lord augments his favours towards thee more and more: the great good which thy soul can desire is that the Lord should shed upon thee the light of his protection, which is worth more than life,’ &c.

“I submit to the reader these ascetic letters, which appear more worthy of Madame Guyon than of a conqueror; if he is not resolved to see in them habitual phrases, and an intention to deceive, which is powerful only when adopted every moment, we may conclude from them that Cromwell was sincere. Independently of the different proofs which I have opposed to this opinion, and of the testimony of the enemies of Cromwell, who, whether fanatical or not, all accuse him of hypocrisy, I may cite the authority of an impartial and independent witness. Debordeaux, the ambassador of France, wrote respecting Cromwell’s zeal for Protestantism: ‘The reports which are spread respecting the General are not true: he affects great piety; but with a particular communication with the Holy Spirit: he is not so weak as to allow himself to be caught by flattery. I know that he ridiculed it with the ambassador of Portugal.’* ”

“M. Villemain says in a note of the second book of his *Histoire de Cromwell*:—

“We find in a letter written after the death of Cromwell by a man who had been attached to him, some details respecting his character and person which are useful for shewing what he was and what he appeared. The most curious feature of this description is that proneness to compassion often observed in the life of Cromwell, and which makes Whitelock say, in his *Memoirs*, that the Protector was a very good man; a kind of sensibility sometimes entirely physical, which does not reach the soul, and which accords, in some

* “*Thurlow’s State Papers*, vol. i., p. 256.

men, with the cold meditation of the greatest cruelties. The following are the terms of this letter :—‘The Protector was of a powerful and robust constitution ; his height was under six feet, (by two inches I believe ;) *his head so preponderating that you would have believed it contained a vast treasure of intellectual faculties ;* his temper excessively inflammable, but this flame subsided spontaneously, or was soon appeased by the moral qualities of the Protector. He was naturally compassionate towards suffering objects, even to an effeminate degree. Although God had given him a heart in which there was little room for the idea of fear, excepting that which He himself inspired, yet he carried to excess his tenderness towards those who suffered. . . . He lived and died in a perfect union with God, as the judicious persons who were near him have observed.’*

“In truth, the form of this extraordinary man’s head proves, in an irrefutable manner, that his devotion as well as his other qualities are in harmony with his organization. In general, I do not think that sovereigns, especially when they are powerful, take great pains to appear otherwise than as they really are, and we shall never fail to find the explanation of their most singular contrasts, and of their apparent hypocrisy, in a particular combination of organs simultaneously developed to a high degree of activity.”†

People are excited to hypocrisy by the absurdity of too many of the religious world, who praise their neighbour, not for excellence of life, but for all the outward performances and show of religion, so profitable to the performer, and for his profession of particular opinions on matters which would require for due appreciation, or even comprehension, if some can be comprehended, far more intelligence and study than fall to the lot of the bulk of those called the educated, though sound and genuine education has scarcely yet begun among us. Europe is Christian : yet bloody battles are incessantly fought in it : two millions and a half of soldiers with ample instruments of death said to be maintained ; and England to pay annually forty-six million pounds sterling for wars past, present, or to come. Were Christ to revisit earth, whatever profession of Christianity he might find, he would find little conception of the beautiful spirit and little obedience to the precepts which he so simply and in so unpriestly a manner inculcated : he would have to recommence his great and blessed work, and shew that he had been completely misunderstood. Hypocrisy, the mere shadow of virtue, and a false estimate of virtue and happiness, are sadly encouraged by the richer

* “*Thurlow’s State Papers*, vol. i., p. 766.

† Gall’s *Fonctions du Cerveau*, t. v., p. 389. Were Mr. Symes’s translation of this work published, the advantage to English readers would be incalculable. He has it ready, but no bookseller takes it. We ought to ensure its publication by subscription. See *Zoist*, No. XIX., p. 213.

sort, the instructed, and the teachers of the people, though they think it not.

Rush, though he could talk glibly and was a sharp, active man of business, shewed no force or grasp of intellect. His defence was most loose and rambling; he asked irrelevant questions; sometimes he aimed at what could be of no service to him, and sometimes disgusted every person by his stupid and glaring efforts to establish falsehood. His force of character was great, but it was the force of all the lower feelings. Placed in certain high situations, he might have become in the vulgar sense a great and renowned man—might have destroyed nations most heroically, and, if cursed with arbitrary power, have trodden upon the necks of millions of subjects. But the want of high intelligence and of a high sense of justice and benevolence rendered his strength mere brutality.

In accordance with his qualities, his head is very large.

The circumference of his cast over the eyes is	24½ inches.
A line drawn from ear to ear over the eyes is	12½ ditto.
Ditto ditto backwards	12 ditto.
Ditto ditto over the head	12¼ ditto.

But unfortunately the head is large where it had better have been smaller; and small where it had better have been large. The head strikes a person, even unacquainted with phrenology, as one of the most monstrous and ill-shaped ever beheld; quite as hideous as his character: and his face is in exact accordance; his upper lip is frightful. The sides of his head and the lower part of its back are enormous, and there lay the positive, the forcible part, of his character. The organs of *Alimentiveness*,* *sexual impulse*, the *love of property* (Acquisitiveness), the *disposition to violence* (Destructiveness), the *disposition to contend* (Courage, Combativeness), *cunning* (Secretiveness), are ENORMOUS.

The breadth at Disposition to Violence is	6¾ inches.
Ditto ditto Courage	5¾ ditto.
Ditto ditto Love of Property . . .	6½ ditto.
Ditto ditto Cunning	6½ ditto.
Ditto ditto centre of Sexual Impulse	3½ ditto.
Ditto ditto Alimentiveness	6½ ditto.

The remarkable negative part of his character arose from the SMALLNESS of his organs of *Justice†* and *Caution*. In the

* See my note in No. XII., p. 462, upon the discovery of this organ. The unhappy Crook has lately destroyed himself.

† My reasons for regarding it as the organ of justice, and not of conscientiousness, are given in No. XII., p. 466.

situation of these organs the head grows narrow and slopes down in a most singular manner. The contrast with the other organs already mentioned strikes every eye. At Caution the breadth is only $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The organs of *Attachment*, *Love of Offspring*, *Love of Notoriety*, or *Vanity*, as Gall terms it, and of *Self-esteem*, are large. The force of any of them would be very great when one or more of the six very large organs at the lower part of the sides and back of the head,—*Destructiveness*, *Combateness*, *Cunning*, &c., acted in concert with them; but must have been overpowered when opposed by one or more of these.

The same remark holds with respect to *Benevolence*, *Veneration*, and *Firmness*, which are not quite so large as the four former, but still are full. The organ of *Ideality* is not at all deficient. The organ of *Firmness*, or rather *Perseverance*, is not an overpowering organ in him, but much that is called firmness is really either courage, or the strong action of some other organ: and his organs of perseverance were so supported by the immense power of the very large organs, that I see no reason to doubt from Rush's head that Gall is correct in what he advances upon this faculty and organ. The term firmness in common acceptation signifies sometimes steadiness in a course, sometimes resolution or courage in some particular circumstance. The former is supposed to be the faculty of the organ.

The distance measured by callipers from the orifice			
	of the ear to Firmness is.....		$6\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto	ditto Veneration		6
Ditto	ditto Benevolence		$6\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto	ditto Self-esteem		$6\frac{1}{8}$
Ditto	ditto Parental Love		$5\frac{1}{2}$
The breadth at the centre of the two organs of			
	Attachment is		4

The development of his intellectual organs is in accordance with what we know of him. The lower range, the perceptive organs, as some term them, were in general large: while the higher or reflecting range were poor.

The organs of *Music*, the *Sense of Persons*, *Form*, *Language*, and *Locality*, were large. His speech in his defence for fourteen hours proved he had words enough at command, and he was known to be very fond of music and to play well upon the flute.*

His organ of observation, of the *Sense of Things*, as Gall

* See my remarks on the equal wickedness of people with much "music in their souls," No. XXI., p. 53.

denominates it, divided by Dr. Spurzheim, on what ground I know not, into Individuality and Eventuality, was not quite so large. The length from the orifice of the ear to it is six inches.

The organ of *Order* was small.

The upper row of intellectual organs were among the smallest of his head. His forehead at this part was narrow and did not advance. *Causality* was small, *Wit* small, and *Comparison* was larger. The length from the orifice of the ear to Comparison was $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The distance of the centre of each organ of Causality $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; the breadth at the outer extremity of the orbits being $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. So that the want of intellectual power exhibited in his defence is fully accounted for.* Such a brain would never have chosen intellectual pursuits, but must always have occupied itself in the gratification of the feelings which the brute department of animals possess, some one, and some another, in equal force with ourselves.†

Why was such a monster, such a monstrous organization, made? But why is the whole world a scene of suffering and wickedness? Why are innocent babies tortured with endless varieties of disease? why are they agonized with the natural process of obtaining their teeth? Why do epidemic poisons devastate nations, the good and the bad equally? Why do agonizing and fatal hereditary diseases attack the virtuous? Why do countless causes of misery assail the just and the unjust? There is little happiness which is not produced with the unhappiness of others, toiling and anxious; or which is not liable to be smashed unexpectedly. As to the miseries occasioned by ourselves, why are we not so made as to wish and be able to act better? Why have we not more intelligent and more virtuous brains? Why is mankind so organized and situated that ignorance, superstition, vice, and suffering, are the prevalent lot of humanity? Whatever the external show of happiness, we may find sorrow actual or impending almost every where, if we go behind the scenes and learn the particulars of every individual; or, if not, we

* The head is farther ill shaped. The posterior portion of the right side and the superior portion of the back are smaller: and the anterior portion of the left side smaller, than their opposites.

† My cast of Rush was taken from the corpse at Norwich by an Italian figure maker resident there, and sold by him to B. Casci, No. 3, Harford Place, Drury Lane, who sells copies for a few shillings, and is a man whom I can recommend for taking casts, both on account of his skill and integrity. Whoever wishes for a cast of a deceased relative will find in him an admirably conducted man.

have only to wait and we find it come. Not only while beholding the glitter and happy excitement of our parks and streets have we merely to turn our heads and see the famishing and diseased beggar, or visit the hospitals or the dirty alleys and back streets and behold want and agonizing and wasting disease: but, while we are enjoying the most glorious landscapes, the dwellings of the destitute and almost houseless are at hand, some victim of disease is never far off, and some suffering birds, fish, beast, or insects, in more or less abundance, are always discoverable.

For the innocent brutes suffer too. Look at the miseries of the toiling horse—that docile and affectionate animal—cruelly forced to excessive labour for our advantage or perhaps taken into bloody battle to be wounded and painfully killed. Look at the miseries of the myriads of animals which are every moment painfully put to death for our own nutriment. Truly, “the whole creation travaileth and groaneth.” The insensible department of nature is no less exposed to injury and destruction. Plants perish from over crowding, from lack of moisture and nourishment, and from the violence committed upon them by the animal department of nature, and by weather. The inanimate department is equally injured; mountains fall, countries are swallowed up; streams obstructed; shores worn away. In the vegetable and inanimate department there is no suffering, and all appears a magnificent circulation of changes: but the *same general laws* which disturb them reign throughout, and disturb the sentient department of nature just as though this part were also insensible. Good comes out of evil every moment. But the question presents itself, Why the evil at all? And next comes the greater question, Why is anything at all? For what end this strange and suffering spectacle of nature?

The head of Rush is no greater mystery than the rest of sentient nature. To give a shadow of a reason is impossible. The purpose of all this is past finding out. We must be content with beholding and submitting in silence, conscious of our own littleness and inability; and not foolishly and presumptuously attempting an explanation. We must be satisfied that it could not be otherwise than it is, and this is my own sole consolation. But while we thus encourage a humble spirit, let us do all the good in our power.

From Rush’s head we must learn charity. Let every man remember that, if he had such a charge of cunning, acquisitiveness, &c., &c., as Rush was burthened with in the possession of such massive organs, and a corresponding deficient charge of higher feeling and intellectual power, he would be

a Rush. Let us detest such organizations as we detest the organizations called wolf, tiger, rattlesnake, scorpion, or vermin; and let us defend ourselves and others from them by all means which are absolutely necessary and as little cruel as possible. But let us pity the individual, for he did not make himself,—no, not a hair of his head.*

MESMERISM IN THE EAST.

COMMUNICATED BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

II. "*Report of the Calcutta Mesmeric Hospital for October.* By JAMES ESDAILE, M.D., Presidency Surgeon." From the *Indian Reporter of Medical Science*.

"I look upon mesmerism as no longer worthy of the serious consideration of the operating surgeon."—*Mr. O'Shaughnessy's Report on the Mesmeric Hospital.*

"It is time to throw away mummery and work above board, now that we have got ether."—*Advice of Dr. Duncan Stewart.*

"SIR,—When a man publishes his opinions or the results of his experience, it is with the hope of the one being approved and the other accepted as facts by the public. But a writer must be prepared to have the soundness of his opinions and the reality of his facts well sifted before he can hope them to meet with general acceptance. I have patiently submitted to this painful bolting process, and I hope that the professor of surgery in the Medical College will be equally resigned while I dissect some of his opinions, which appear to me to be both erroneous and dangerous.

"Since my last Report, public attention has been a good

* "Humility and benevolence are two leading duties. If we detect the signs of intellectual deficiency and vice in our own heads, we may learn to think humbly of ourselves; and, being put in possession of true self-knowledge, endeavour to strengthen what is too weak and repress what is too strong. If we detect the signs of great talents and virtues in the heads of others, we may love them the more as superior and highly favoured beings: whereas, if we detect the signs of great virtues and talents in our own heads, we may learn to give no praise to ourselves, but be thankful for the gift; and, if we detect the signs of vice and intellectual deficiency in others, we may learn to pity rather than censure. . . . A vicious man must be restrained, as a wild beast*, for the good of others, though, for aught we know, his faults may, like the acts of the beast of prey, be chargeable rather on his nature; and, while we feel justified in confining, and the culprit is perhaps conscious how richly he deserves his fate, we may pity in our hearts and acknowledge that we ourselves have often been less excusable.

"Teach me to love and to forgive,
Exact my own defects to scan,
What others are to feel, and own myself a man."†

* "A man of determined bad principle may in like manner be shamed by the most benevolent, on account of being odious and dangerous; though they wish him so well as ardently to long for his reformation, and pity his organisation, his education and the circumstances in which he has been placed."—See my *Human Physiology*, p. 410.

† "Gray, *Ode to Adversity*.

deal directed to an unfortunate case in which death speedily followed the inhalation of chloroform at the Medical College here. The operator, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, has favoured us with some '*Remarks*' upon the case in your last number, and it is to them that I wish to direct the attention of your readers.

"The death of the patient is attributed '*entirely to the insensibility caused by chloroform*,' but yet we are told that this person, and all those who have expired under the influence of chloroform, '*did not die from any poisonous effects of this valuable drug*.' We are hence led to infer, that chloroform does not possess *any poisonous qualities*. As the most fatal mistakes may occur, if this opinion is acted upon, I will take the trouble to prove to those who have not the necessary means of information at hand, that chloroform is a *virulent poison*, requiring '*keen observation, caution, and judgment*' in its administration, as remarked by Dr. M'Kinnon in your last number, and that with every precaution, it occasionally kills with lightning-like rapidity. Every medical periodical, for the last year, abounds with *fatal* experiments upon animals. Dr. Plouviez, for example, stated at a Meeting of the Parisian Academy of Sciences, that he had given a dog, weighing 8lbs., 23 grains of chloroform to inhale, and that the animal died *in a minute and a half*.

"Mr. Bennett, in the *Edinburgh Monthly Journal*, says,— '*The poisonous action of chloroform, as observed in animals, is precisely similar to that of a pure narcotic.*'"

" '*The poison enters at once into the circulation, and penetrates through the whole system, and but a few minutes elapse between apparently perfect health, and the death of the patient. Art is powerless in dealing with the poisonous effects of the vapour.*'—*Medical Gazette, July, 1848.*

"In a paper '*on death from chloroform*,' Mr. Sibson says, that when asphyxia is induced, '*we must regard chloroform as one of the most uncontrollable narcotic poisons.*' But to proceed to its effects upon man.

"If the following people were not *poisoned*, I should like to know what happened to them:—

"A lady at Boulogne, 30 years of age, in good health, was put under the influence of chloroform to have a small abscess in the thigh opened. A handkerchief with *fifteen or twenty* drops of chloroform was held under the nostrils. The patient only made a few inspirations, when she cried, '*I'm suffocating*,' and died *on the instant*.

"A dentist in London gave a healthy looking young man chloroform to inhale. After *six inspirations* his head dropped, and he never moved or spoke after.

"A lady at Cincinnati, died at the expiration of *five minutes* after inhaling chloroform. She was in excellent health.

"In the case at Hyderabad, the operating surgeon reports that '*the death was almost instantaneous.*'

"At the hospital Beaujon in Paris, M. Robert had only *made one flap* in a case of amputation when the patient died.

"Mr. Spencer Wells reports, 'I saw a patient die in bed just as M. Malgaigne had completed disarticulation at the shoulder joint, and feel convinced that chloroform was the immediate cause of death.'

"A druggist's boy in Aberdeen was found dead, leaning upon the counter with his face in a towel, which he had impregnated with chloroform.

"A girl at Newcastle died in *two minutes* after inhaling chloroform for the removal of a toe-nail.

"Having only one medical periodical at hand, I know not how many more fatal cases may have been reported elsewhere, but enough has been said for my purpose, and it is to be hoped that we shall hear no more of the *innocuous nature of chloroform*. It would fill a whole number of your Journal to notice the disagreeable and dangerous after effects of chloroform.

"Mr. O'Shaughnessy was equally confident and oracular in vindicating the suspected *innocence of ether*. We were told, '*The dangers are imaginary. The reported fatal effects attributed to ether, all practical men now laugh at.*' Yet every body knows that within a year from its discovery, *fatal ether cases* had become so numerous that it became absolutely necessary to seek some safer general anæsthetic agent, and hence the birth of chloroform, destined apparently to an equally short *universal empire*. If the Professor of Surgery expects us to respect him as an authority, his opinions will be better considered and his statements more correct in future when writing in a Medical Journal, or reporting to Government upon a scientific subject. Such Delphic responses may overawe and impose upon an audience of Hindoo boys, but are only calculated to make '*all practical men laugh.*'

"But no reasonable person objects to the use of chloroform *merely because it is a poison*, but because it is an unmanageable one, and no skill, prudence, and experience can suffice to guard against its occasional fatal effects. Ether and chloroform for surgical purposes are most valuable additions to our armoury, and, I believe, that I was the first individual in this country who tested their powers. But having witnessed their physiological action upon the human system, I felt convinced that their effects would often be dangerous,

and prophesied that their *general* use in surgery would even be frequently fatal. If we had no other resource, this would be a necessary evil, and the danger would have to be carefully weighed with the possible advantage.

"But when we possess another equally powerful, always safe, and generally successful natural agent, as we have in this country, it does appear incomprehensible to me, and the public are equally puzzled, why mesmerism is *never* resorted to in the general hospitals of Calcutta, but the more violent and dangerous method *always* preferred. I have always understood that the most scientific surgeon or physician is he who cures his patient in the simplest and safest manner, and the medical mesmerists acting upon this principle, only have recourse to the inferior and dangerous agent, when the superior and safe power has disappointed their expectations, which happily in this country very seldom happens.

"These exceptional cases seem to me to be the proper and legitimate field for ether and chloroform, and they are so few, that if restricted to them, we might hope never to hear of another fatal case in India—a consummation devoutly to be wished, but impossible to be obtained, while chloroform is *exclusively* used in surgery. There are many cases in which no man who values his reputation and the lives of his patients would venture to administer chloroform for surgical purposes, and I am curious to learn how such cases are disposed of in hospitals where mesmerism is *tabooed*. Cases of extreme debility and chronic organic disease are especially adapted for mesmeric treatment, and *justice cannot be done to the patient by any other means*. Add to this, the total absence of anxiety in the surgeon's mind, caused by perfect confidence in the safety of his proceedings, and it passes all comprehension how men can reject such a blessed relief to *themselves* as well as their patients. There is not an operator, one would think, who does not envy Dr. Martin and Dr. Webb's satisfaction while performing the following operations in my hospital:—

"Removal of a malignant Tumor of the Eye.

"Sheik Abdoolah, aged 50. One of his eyes has been diseased ever since he was 10 years of age, but it did not burst till two years ago. A tumor then began to form, which now protrudes from the orbit, and covers half the cheek: it is hard, deeply ulcerated, and firmly attached to the surrounding parts. The man was sent to my hospital by Dr. Martin, of the Eye Infirmary, to be mesmerised.

"He was mesmerised on the 8th October, and was fit to be operated upon next day.

"Dr. Martin performed the operation on the 13th, in the presence of a large company, and *not a vestige of muscular irritability even, was seen from first to last.* As the bleeding was very profuse, it was desirable to plug the orbit with lint as soon as possible, and I remarked, that, if any diseased structure was left, the operation might be completed any other day without inconvenience to the patient. He awoke about half an hour after the operation, *totally unconscious that any thing had been done to him, and feeling just as usual.*

"16th. He was entranced to be dressed for the first time to-day, and Dr. Martin, finding some of the diseased mass left, carefully dissected it off the orbit, and, to give further security, *undiluted nitric acid was freely applied all round, and to all this the man was perfectly indifferent, saying, on awaking, that there was no pain in the part.*

"At different dressings, *nitric acid was freely sponged around the orbit with the best effect, and always without the knowledge of the patient, who has never appeared in any way affected by the operation and the subsequent proceedings.*

"Remarks by Dr. MARTIN, upon a case of malignant Tumor of the Eye extirpated in the mesmeric trance.

"The chief interest in this case consists in the state of perfect insensibility produced within a few days by the mesmeric processes. At the time of operation, *not the slightest trace of feeling could be perceived* in any part of the body; the breathing remained perfectly regular, and his pulse only became affected in the course of the operation, as it became lowered by loss of blood. This rendered the removal of the tumor from the face and orbit, which under other circumstances would have been very distressing to the patient, and a source of some anxiety to the operator, a matter of comparatively little anxiety to either. This perfect coma not only took place on this occasion, but on others, when he was mesmerised, which was only done when it was absolutely necessary; on these, undiluted nitric acid was applied to the part of the raw surface of the face which showed at one time a disposition to slough, and not only to the face, but to the walls and back part of the orbit, which were in the same condition. *The latter operation, I should imagine, would be, except in a state of insensibility, almost beyond the limits of human endurance.* This case tends to prove, that in a large proportion of cases requiring operation, perfect anæsthesia may be produced by mesmerism, without any material loss of time, with no impairment of the nervous energies, and with perfect safety.

"Hypertrophied Scrotum.

"Ramsouder Doss, aged 48, a writer, has suffered for twenty years from a scrotal tumor. He was mesmerised for the first time on the 9th October, and, on examining him at the end of an hour, his eyes were wide open and natural in appearance, and I thought he was *wide awake*: but, on speaking to him, he did not answer or move when I pricked him. Shortly after he roused himself suddenly and said that he had been asleep.

"10th. On looking at him to-day, his eyes were wide open, rotating naturally, and one would have said, observantly. But no corpse could have been more callous to pinching, pricking, and burning, than he was.

"As I wished to examine his pupils, which were in a bad light, I ordered the bed on which he lay to be turned to front the light, and we found that the iris was contractile, but less so than natural. Dr. Webb and Dr. Martin being present, I ordered him to be demesmerised for their satisfaction, and the man said that he had just now woke; that neither the ants nor mosquitoes had bitten him when asleep, but he added, 'my head was at the other end of the bed when I went to sleep, how has this happened!' Dr. Webb hereupon said, 'How I should like to have the pleasure of operating upon such a patient!' To which I replied, that he was very welcome to operate upon this man, and he gladly accepted the offer.

"12th. Dr. Webb performed the operation to-day, and it was very severe and protracted from the hardness of the mass and the adhesions the testes had contracted to the usual scars made by the actual cautery, which is the favourite, but useless and dangerous treatment of the native doctors. The testes were reserved for subsequent examination, and the enveloping mass removed as fast as possible. We had the mortification to find that both testes were converted into balls of bone, and they were therefore cut off. The man's eyes were wide open all the time, and a casual observer would have said that he was as observant as any person in the room, but he *might as well have been a log for any other sign of life that could be detected in his whole body during, and for half an hour after, the operation, when he awoke as fresh as when he went to sleep.*

"Hypertrophy of Scrotum and Colis.

"Bolonath, a cook, aged 40. The colis is enormously enlarged, but the scrotal tumor is of a moderate size.

"He has been an opium-eater for eight years, and now

takes eight grains of bazaar opium daily, and I was doubtful whether this habit might not interfere with the mesmeric influence.

"10th. Mesmerised for the first time to-day; slept naturally, apparently.

"12th. Insensible to fire and steel.

"14th. Operated upon to-day—all the organs saved. He became disturbed in the *upper part* of his body towards the end of the operation, and moaned, but very soon relapsed into *perfect repose, and continued so during the tying of the vessels, and for about half an hour afterwards.* He awoke while I was examining his eyes, and was *quite ignorant that any thing had happened to him, feeling just as usual, he said.*

"Hypertrophy of Scrotum.

"Ramnath Jogee, aged 30, a shop-keeper, mesmerised on the 10th, ready on the 16th, operated upon on the 18th. Both testes were involved in large hydroceles, which were opened, and the diseased sacs leisurely dissected off the cords and testes, the colic was then freed, and the whole mass struck off—all the organs kept. *During all this hacking, the patient was perfectly quiet and motionless,* and only began to wince a little at the tying of the vessels. As soon as the bed was re-adjusted, he awoke in a half delirious state, probably caused by the sudden withdrawal of blood from the brain; the loss of blood having been very great. He soon became tranquil, however, and said that a feeling of thirst had awoke him. The mass weighed 40 lbs., and is probably near the limit of safety in attempting to save the testes.

"Hypertrophied Scrotum.

"Sheik Etwaree, aged 42, a cloth-merchant, and a very powerful handsome man. He was mesmerised on the 18th, was ready on the 20th, and the operation was performed on the 23rd. *No dead body could have been more composed from first to last—all the organs saved; weight of tumor 8 lbs.*

"He awoke three quarters of an hour after all was over, as fresh and lively as if he had never been touched, and without an ache in any part of his body. Baboo Ramchunder Mettre, of the Hindoo College, conversed a good while with him, *without his having the least suspicion that anything had been done to him, and he begged me to cure him soon,* as he had a wife and family at Hooghly, and could not afford to be long absent from them. The Baboo at last told him he had been cured in his sleep, but the man fairly laughed in his face, and the idea was so absurd that he did not even condescend

to make any examination of its truth. But when the Rev. Mr. La Croix, who is a perfect master of Bengalee, stepped forward, and assured him of the fact, telling him that 'he had great reason to thank God for his deliverance,' the man's expression changed from laughing incredulity to profound attention, and being at length satisfied by examination of the truth of what he heard, his eyes filled with tears of gratitude, and he thanked Allah and then me most fervently and eloquently. Allah was above all, and I represented him upon earth. Allah had given him life at first, but I had given him a second life, and he prayed Allah to give me a golden 'topee.'

"Sooroo Moll, aged 40, mesmerised on the 22nd, ready on the 24th, operation performed on the 25th. *No corpse could have been more indifferent.* He awoke in about 20 minutes after the operation. Organs all saved—the mass weighed 8 lbs.

"The reader will perceive that all these men might have been disposed of at much earlier periods, if it had been necessary. But as it was not, it was prudent to take additional security. Readers not practically acquainted with the appearance of people in the mesmeric trance, may possibly be misled by the frequent recurrence of such expressions as,—'*death-like repose,—lay like a corpse, &c.,*' in my Reports. But I beg them to understand, that this relates merely to their *passiveness under the knife*, for in every other respect, they resemble healthy sleepers. The pulse is natural, the blood unchanged, the breathing tranquil, the skin warm, and the countenance full and fresh. From all which it is evident, that the brain, the seat of volition and consciousness, is alone affected, and that the organic life remains in full, or even increased, activity. A most convincing proof of this is, that *out of 100 CAPITAL operations performed by me in the mesmeric trance, only two patients died within a month after the operation—one of cholera and one of tetanus.* To those who will refer to the list given in my last report, this will appear very remarkable, considering the severe and dangerous nature of the operations, and can only be accounted for by ascribing it to the *preservative and fortifying power of mesmerism*, which, unlike all other anæsthetic agents, does not diminish the nervous sensibility necessary for reaction and perfect recovery from severe injuries.

"Calcutta, 10th December, 1848."

*"First Half-yearly Report of the Calcutta Mesmeric Hospital.
From 1st September, 1848, to 1st March, 1849.*

*"To H. M. ELLIOT, Esq., JAMES HUME, Esq., Dr. MARTIN,
REV. H. FISHER, REV. MR. LA CROIX, RAJAH KALI-
KRISHNA, RAJAH SUTT CHURN GHOSAL, RAJAH PERTAUB
CHUNDER SING, BABOO RAMGOPAL GHOSE, BABOO RAMA-
PERSAUD ROY, Members of the Mesmeric Hospital Com-
mittee.*

"Gentlemen,—In presenting you with a Report of our proceedings during the last six months, I will not inflict upon you the details of every operation performed. As nearly 200 mesmeric operations have already been minutely described to the public, this would be as wearisome to you as irksome to me. I will therefore only trouble you with a tabular statement of the operations performed, with their results. If the infliction of severe injuries upon the human body without endangering life is a good test of surgical practice, our results are most satisfactory in this respect, as *out of 30 capital operations not a single death has occurred in consequence of the injury sustained by the patient.*

"Nothing can be more gratifying also than the success we have had in *preventing all pain* to the patients during, and often even *subsequently* to the operations; and I have still the satisfaction to report, that *in no instance have I ever seen a disagreeable local or general effect produced by the use of mesmerism in surgery.* In only one instance did the patient become conscious during the operation, and this arose from the carelessness caused by continued success.

"Since the discovery of ether and chloroform, we have been told as if by authority,—*'that mesmerism is no longer worthy of the serious attention of the practical surgeon.'* This was all very well when we knew no better, but it is now quite worn out and used up; only a few imbeciles who are unable to keep pace with the march of intellect now trouble themselves about it. Among the cases now submitted to you, Gentlemen, will be found numerous examples in which mesmerism has succeeded in doing what dare not and cannot be done by chloroform or any other known means.

"Let me ask who would venture to reduce a man to insensibility by chloroform, for 10 days in succession, in order to have a stone broken down in his bladder, or to have the orbit of his eye dressed and sponged with nitric acid as often as was desirable? or who would dare to remove scrotal tumors weighing 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100lbs. and upwards, under the influence of any narcotic drug whatever? Not I, certainly, and

I would earnestly dissuade any one from attempting it, or suffering it to be done to him. We all know now that chloroform has a tendency to paralyse the heart, lungs, and brain, and it requires no doctor's learning to be convinced that such exhausting operations can only be performed with a chance of success in cases where the vital powers are intact. When these tumors weigh above 40lbs., the loss of blood is so profuse, that the pulse is usually extinguished on the spot, and it takes a considerable time to revive it; the brain is so exhausted by the sudden withdrawal of blood that the patient awakes in a half delirious state, and the stomach sympathising, vomiting also takes place, and hours elapse before the equilibrium of the sanguineous and nervous systems is re-established. In the case of the last tumor of 40lbs., I ordered the solid clots to be gathered, and they weighed 2½lbs.; and, taking into account the serum that covered the floor, with the blood in the mass, I presume that about 5lbs of blood were discharged in a few minutes—half of the blood in the whole body, according to Harvey; and in cases of double this size and upwards, the loss of blood must be much greater.*

"It must be evident to every one of common sense, that persons fainting from this immense hemorrhage (as they usually do) would probably never revive if the vitality of the heart and brain was lowered by any influence whatever. The late fatal case at the Medical College here illustrates this; although there was only *moderate bleeding*, we are told, the patient fainted and never recovered, and Mr. O'Shaughnessy, in reporting the case, very truly said that all narcotic drugs were open to the objection that they prevented the re-action necessary for recovery from injuries attended with great exhaustion of the system. *Mesmerism is the only known anæsthetic agent to which this does not apply*, for it not only protects but exalts organic life; the best proof of which is, that not one of these monstrous tumor cases has been lost in con-

* The readers of *The Zoist* will be amused with the following extract from the *Lancet* of the 19th of last May.—*John Elliotson*. "Ether and chloroform never had a very extensive hold upon London midwifery practice. . . . Within the past month, three stunning blows have been dealt out against the practice of anæsthesia in natural labour—namely Dr. Collin's historical memoir of Dr. Joseph Clarke; the re-publication of Dr. Montgomery's address to the Dublin Obstetric Society; and, lastly, Mr. Gream's forcible pamphlet. The latter contains the details of a large number of cases of death after operations and after delivery, where anæsthetic agents were employed, and an inquiry into the results to mother and child in cases where serious symptoms followed their exhibition. Mr. Gream has been blamed in no measured terms, for endeavouring to find out, by a rigorous enquiry, the bad effects of chloroform, but really its beauties had been so highly painted by its thick-and-thin friends, that some such warning voice from behind the scene was required, and will be received with thanks by the profession."

sequence of the operation : and yet we are told,—‘*that mesmerism no longer deserves the serious attention of the operating surgeon!*’ The existence of a mesmeric hospital supported by public subscription here is the best rebuke to such rash assertions ; and I hope that this standing protest against professional prejudice will be persevered in till this important means of alleviating human suffering is admitted into the public hospitals of Calcutta. The Government and the public have a right to expect this after the interest they have shewn in the subject, and the expense they have been at in prosecuting the experiment to a successful issue. So far from desiring to perpetuate a separate and rival hospital to those already in existence, I will gladly make over my mesmeric corps to any general hospital in Calcutta that will condescend to avail itself of their services. But till this important branch of the healing art is welcomed and cultivated in our public hospitals, I shall endeavour to preserve it in vigour for future and more liberal times ; and I trust that you, Gentlemen, and the public will think a little trouble and money well spent in providing an asylum for one of God’s best gifts to man, and which appears to be particularly valuable to the natives of this country.

“I hope that the native gentlemen of the Committee will make their countrymen understand, that, in subscribing to the Hospital, they in no way benefit me, for I have never got a farthing for my labours from first to last.*

“It is also very desirable that the people should be disabused of the absurd notion that mesmerism is most efficient in the treatment of scrotal tumors. The real fact being, that the generality of surgical cases requiring operations are more easily managed from the patients’ nervous system being reduced by long previous suffering.

“We have not been able to prosecute the medical branch of the subject to the desired extent on account of the numerous surgical cases requiring attention, and our want of accommodation. The proper sphere for medical mesmerism is in large general hospitals, where the patients from the severity of their diseases are compelled to remain for a length of time, and are under the command of their medical attendants. As our patients come to the Hospital to be mesmerised, we have no control over them ; many disappear before any effect can be produced, others cease to come on finding relief, and the termination cannot be ascertained.

* We recommend this fact to the notice of Mr. G. Cornewall Lewis, M.P., &c. See our notice of this well-informed, just, and gentleman-like man farther on in the present number.—*Zoist*.

"We have lately seen the stimulating and sedative properties of ether and chloroform applied with success in the cure of medical diseases, and I cannot understand why the same virtues possessed by mesmerism, with superadded advantages, should not be enlisted by the physician as *auxiliaries* to his other means of combating disease. The refreshment from sleep, often not otherwise to be procured, and the sedative influence of the *trance*, would alone constitute mesmerism a valuable medical agent. But it is from its power of *stimulating the nervous system* that the patient often derives the greatest benefit when all other remedies have failed; and, to produce this effect, neither sleep nor coma is usually necessary. The following cases will illustrate this double action of mesmerism.

"Gunga, a Hindoo lad, aged 18, came to the Hospital with the wrist of his right arm much enlarged and excessively tender: he cannot bear the least pressure on it. The entire hand, back and palm, is so swollen (*œdematous*) that the bones cannot be felt, and there is not the *slightest power of motion* in the wrist and joints of the fingers. *He has been leeches, blistered, &c., during the last six weeks at the Native Hospital, and without the least benefit.*

"The part was ordered to be mesmerised for an hour daily. After 3 or 4 days, the swelling of the hand began to decrease, the wrist became daily less tender, and at the end of *six weeks* he was *dismissed cured, with his hand as fine as the other*, and the motions of all the joints quite free—*no other means having been used*. Many cases of low disorganizing inflammation of joints have been cured by the stimulating power of mesmerism; and acute inflammation even extinguished by the sedative influence of the *trance*.

"Shaik Dowlut, aged 21, came to the Hospital on the 10th October with a rheumatic affection of the scalp of two months' standing. The contour of the head is very irregular from numerous bumps all over it which are very painful. The swellings soon began to diminish and to shift their place frequently, and *on the 21st he was dismissed cured, with his head smooth and symmetrical.*

"The following is a striking case of mesmeric susceptibility in the European constitution, and the curative effects upon the system are the more valuable from being accidentally and unexpectedly evolved during the treatment of a surgical case.

"Capt. —, a seaman, a strongly built muscular man, apparently in good health, was sent to my hospital by Dr. Webb to get mesmerised, if possible. 'What can you want to be mesmerised for?' I said, 'you are more likely to mes-

merise my people, to look at you.' He then explained that he suffered from a *fistula*, which required to be laid open, but the orifice was so tender that an attempt to probe it almost brought on convulsions, and the approach of a probe horrified him; he therefore hoped to have this irritability subdued by mesmerism. I told him that he looked a very unpromising subject, but that I would try if he possessed any natural susceptibility to the influence. I seated him in a chair, and, in a minute or two, his eyelids began to quiver and then closed: after three or four minutes, I called him by name without his paying any attention, and at the end of five minutes, I plucked some hair out of his beard and then stuck a pin into the thick of his thumb without disturbing him in the least. Being alone, I now left the room to get a probe, and, just as I returned, he awoke with a sudden start, throwing his hands up at the same time, when his eye fell upon the pin sticking in his thumb, and he was surprized not a little. He had not heard of or felt anything in his sleep. As this promised to be a very easy case to subdue, I determined to conclude it myself. On the 2nd day, Dr. Webb being present, Capt. — again fell into the mesmeric state in a minute or two, but soon became very much disturbed in his sleep. His scalp moved about in an extraordinary manner, spasms passed over his countenance which soon extended to his whole body, and he bounced up into the sitting posture (he was lying on a couch), with his eyes staring wide open, but evidently sightless. After a moment's reflection apparently, he pounced upon his left wrist with his right hand, and appeared to feel his pulse with intense interest for some time. I continued to mesmerise him, and he soon fell back again as if shot through the head. When he awoke in about an hour after, he had no recollection of having been in any way disturbed during his sleep.

"What!" said I, 'do you not remember getting up and feeling your pulse?' Hereupon he laughed and answered, 'That is very curious, for I am confident that if any one was watching me when my sleep was disturbed, he would see me feeling my pulse. You must know that I have a very strange pulse, it sometimes mounts 50 beats in the minute without any apparent cause, and I have fallen into the habit of watching it.' On board ship, when any one asks 'Where is —?' the answer is, 'Oh! you will find him counting his pulse.'

"On the 3rd day he yielded as readily as on previous occasions, and as I diffused my influence more generally and gradually, there were no spasms excited.

"On awaking to-day, he said that he felt his nerves so much

stronger that he could now stand a probing, and it was accordingly done without more than the usual pain. Although the mesmeric sleep was daily induced easily, insensibility of the surface was slower of being developed than I expected, and as Capt. — had quite recovered his *nerve*, the little operation was performed in his waking state, on the 9th day. Besides the general improvement of his nervous system, he observed that his natural sleep was longer and sounder, even when he slept during the day. He never missed waking at midnight and day-break,—his watch times; but, since he has been mesmerised, he has never awoke at either time, and is only disturbed in the morning by the return of his children from their drive.

"On the 1st of February, an old woman brought her son to my hospital on account of his being *dumb*. The man himself intimated by pantomime that he possessed all his faculties but the power of speech: he could not utter a sound of any kind even. He made us understand also, that, after having eaten something, he had become insensible, and, on coming to his senses, he found that he could not speak; and he made signs that his head was constantly *turning*. On being asked if he had been poisoned, he nodded assent. In the hope of stimulating his brain, I ordered him to be mesmerised for an hour daily.

"2nd. When I asked him to-day if he could speak, he, to my great surprise, *answered*, 'a little;' and I found that he *could utter single words*, but with much difficulty.

"3rd. *He speaks pretty well to-day.*

"4th. He speaks with fluency and precision to-day, and his voice is only a little weak and hoarse. Ever since he came to his senses, his head has been constantly *turning* and he scarcely ever slept: whenever he went to sleep, he used to start up immediately in a state of great alarm. *After the 2nd day's mesmerising, the turning of his head left him, and since then he has slept long and comfortably.*

"On recovering his speech, he told me a strange tale of poisoning and robbery, which I sent him to relate to the proper authorities.*

"Now if the derangement of the nervous system in the last two cases had extended to the intellectual organs, is it not reasonable to suppose that they also would probably have responded to the mesmeric stimulus, and their functions been

* See in No. III., p. 340, the cure of equal dumbness and of perfect deafness, effected by myself through mesmerism, in a lad who had been terrified into a fit, and had been treated fruitlessly in King's College Hospital.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

restored in consequence of the improved condition of the brain? If we possessed the power of rousing the weakened brain, of soothing the irritable nerves, and of giving sleep to the sleepless, without any of the evil consequences attending the use of common stimulants and narcotics, is it not evident that we should be in possession of a sovereign remedy for many cases of *insanity* arising from debility or functional derangements of the organs of intellect? *Nature has mercifully supplied us with such an agent in mesmerism*, and I have long been desirous to try its efficacy in the treatment of *madness*. By the exemplary liberality of Dr. Strong, and your kindness in sanctioning the requisite outlay, I shall soon have an opportunity of experimenting on a large scale in the Lunatic Asylum here, and, even though the results may disappoint the physician, I have little doubt that they will be very interesting to the physiologist and psychologist.

"I might now relate other cases of neuralgic and rheumatic affections cured by mesmeric treatment exclusively; but perhaps enough has now been said to vindicate our belief in the curative powers of mesmerism, and to reconcile people to being sometimes cured by the unaided hand of nature, although they do not exactly know how she acts. If we were equally exacting with regard to *physic*, there would be wonderfully little of it consumed.

"I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

"JAMES ESDAILE, M.D., *Presy. Surgn.*

"*Calcutta, 1st March, 1849.*

Mesmeric operations performed during last 6 months	31
Minor Miscellaneous operations	278
Dispensary patients prescribed for.	455

Average Monthly Expenditure. Rs. 285."

Mesmerism is of course not employed in the treatment of insanity in this country, and Dr. Conolly has lately thought it necessary for his character to advertise in the newspaper that he rejects it altogether (No. XXIV., p. 369). But I found the following passage in a late number of the *Register of Medical Science*, published at Calcutta,—

"We have been gratified by the receipt of some 'memo-randa of mesmeric trials' made by Dr. Kean, at Moorshe-dabad, upon the patients in the insane hospital there.

"Dr. Kean informs us, that he was induced in the year 1845, when the wonders of mesmerism were much talked of, to experiment for himself, as the shortest and most satisfactory way of coming to a conclusion regarding the truth of mesmerism, but never having seen the manipulations, he was at a loss how to proceed. A blind person, however, having called upon him for advice, he thought it a good opportunity to make a trial, so, desiring the patient to be seated, passes were made before his face without his knowledge, and somewhat to Dr. Kean's surprize, he succeeded in inducing sleep in about half an hour. Dr. Kean, being now satisfied that he possessed the power of inducing the mesmeric sleep, proceeded to use it as a remedial agent in cases of epilepsy and insanity.

"The notes of the cases we have been favoured with a sight of, are mere jottings never intended for publication, and therefore would not interest our readers. But Dr. Kean's summary of his experience will, we think, most certainly do so,—it ought to be premised that the hospital attendants and jail burkundauzes,* strong up-country men, are the mesmerisers.

"Dr. Kean informs us, *that since the employment of mesmerism almost all difficulty in the management of the patients has vanished.* Formerly, there were always a number of noisy and violent patients, and a good many who slept neither day or night, for weeks together, in spite of every remedial measure. *Now the whole are as orderly and quiet as an equal number of persons in any other house, and all enjoy natural rest. So great is the change, that Dr. Kean says, he could with additional burkundauzes, as easily manage 500 as 50 patients!*

"This statement is so extraordinary and important, that we earnestly hope Dr. Kean will be pleased to afford us the necessary data in support of it, as the skeleton notes sent to us are too scanty and disjointed to be satisfactory to any but the writer.

"In the future reports with which we hope to be favoured by Dr. Kean, we would beg him to be particular in giving us the duration of the disease, the frequency of the paroxysms, if there are intermissions; if not, the character of the mania, and the supposed exciting cause. The mesmeric symptoms, bodily or mental, if present, should also be carefully noted in each case.

"Spontaneous somnambulism has hitherto been of rare

* Jail Guards.

occurrence in this country, we believe, and we should like to know if it has happened in Dr. Kean's practice.

"When it does exist, we should expect it to be very efficacious in the treatment of insanity, not only from the extraordinary control that the mesmeriser is said to have over the patient in the somnabulistic state, but also from the alleged possibility of extending the directing influence into the natural state, from impressions received in the state of somnambulism. This, according to the best mesmeric authorities, is not an unfrequent phenomenon. If the somnambulist is requested by his mesmeriser to act in a certain manner when he awakes, and the promise to obey is given, it is usually most faithfully performed, the person feeling an instinctive craving, at which he often himself wonders, to perform certain actions, and adopt habits altogether foreign to his natural disposition and tastes. Supposing this to be attainable, it is clear that it would give us an admirable means of modifying and insensibly improving the bodily and mental health of the insane, though the mere sedative influence will often be highly curative, no doubt. If Dr. Kean has not as yet any experience in somnambulism, we hope, that with his opportunities, he will attempt to enlighten us upon so interesting a subject, and will not be deterred by any extent of adverse theorising or confident dogmatism, from satisfying himself experimentally of the truth of the matter.

"The honor and utility of demolishing a fallacy is often as great as that of discovering a new truth, and we shall be equally grateful to him who destroys or establishes the wonders of mesmeric somnambulism to our satisfaction."

In a letter, dated April 6th, Dr. Esdaile thus writes to me:—

"For a month past I have been at work in the Lunatic Asylum here, and our results have been very encouraging. But a length of time must elapse before we can speak with confidence on the subject."

It is the *solemn duty* of those who treat the insane to give those poor creatures a full trial of mesmerism. For no part of medicine is more defective than the treatment of insanity.

Instances of the very wonderful benefit of mesmerism in insanity and hypochondriasis, will be found in *The Zoist*, No. II., pp. 162, 180, 186; V., p. 133; VI., p. 267; X., p. 193; XIV., p. 238; XVIII., p. 142; XIX., pp. 234, 300; XX., p. 364; XXI., p. 40; XXIV., pp. 321, 390; XXV., p. 9.

III. MESMERISM IN THE WEST.

COMMUNICATED BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

AFTER several times showing itself, mesmerism appears now to have fairly come up, and with the certainty of flourishing perennially, in the western hemisphere. The extraordinary, mysterious, inexplicable epidemic, whose devastating influence upon the Caucasian variety of the medical profession, throughout the earth, has been so unsparing, and will constitute one of the most remarkable incidents in medical and general history,—the epidemic infatuation of weak incredulity and of ignorant contempt, in regard to the plain evidence of the external senses and to common sense, in all mesmeric facts, must soon expend itself; and, on recovering their senses, the profession will look back upon their wild conduct with wonder. I have received some American newspapers with accounts of the mesmeric success of Mr. Keely, who is not a medical man. But the well-known Dr. Caldwell and other physicians have manfully certified to the good he has done, forming themselves, in conjunction with clergymen and various laymen, into committees to investigate his cures.

"From the Louisville Journal.

"MR. KEELY.

"This most distinguished and successful of all the American practitioners of mesmerism is now in the city. He has made a triumphant tour through several of the principal interior towns of Kentucky, and is about to start for St. Louis with the intention of giving a course of twenty lectures, with experiments, in that city.

"Wherever Mr. Keely has been, his experiments, especially in the curing of diseases, have been thoroughly scrutinized, and in every instance a highly favourable report on them has been made by the first citizens of the community. The details of the report made in this city, and the names of the professional and other gentlemen attached to it, are well remembered. The report in Frankfort is signed by G. A. Robertson, Rev. J. S. Braddock, W. T. Hurndon, Esq., Rev. B. Miles, Mr. Craig, keeper of the penitentiary, T. D. Tilford, Esq., J. M. Mills, M.D., and several others. The report in Versailles is signed by Medley Sheldon, Esq., Hugh Turner, Esq., Herman Bowman, Esq., and more than twenty others. The report in Shelbyville is signed by Dr. Bonney, Dr. T. V. Bush, Dr. W. A. Bush, Mr. Rice, Mr. Middleton, editor of the *News*, and others. The report at Lexington is signed by Rev. Mr. Kavanaugh, Rev. Mr. Farnsworth, president of the Memphis University, Rev. S. S. Church, H. C. Pindell, Esq., John Lutz, Esq., and others of equally high character. The report at New Albany, made several months ago, and signed by a large number of the leading citizens of the town, gave detailed accounts of the most surprising cures, and the

same gentlemen have, within the last two or three days, given their testimony to Mr. Keeley that the cures wrought by him have continued up to the present time.

"In the September number of the *American Phrenological Journal*, we find a well-written communication from Dr. Caldwell, giving a truthful and graphic description of Mr. Keely's achievements here. The doctor, after a brief account of the efforts of several other lecturers on mesmerism in this city, says:—

"In this calm and moderate, but not unpromising state, did matters continue until the arrival in Louisville of I. I. Keely, Esq., in the winter of 1847-8, when everything connected with mesmerism was changed. And the change was sudden and great, beyond anything of the sort I had ever witnessed. Better still; it was permanent. I should rather say, that its course was necessarily forward. Like all other gushes of truth and nature, it could never retrograde—because it was itself truth and nature, and had therefore the firmness and endurance of the 'house not made without hands.'"

"But the following report of a committee of Mr. Keely's private class, the correctness of which I cheerfully avouch, is a document much more creditable to him and his performances, than all I have said, or can say in their behalf. With the addition of that, therefore, I conclude my narrative.

"CH. CALDWELL.

"In offering the following testimonial to the success of Mr. Keely, in his late teaching and public demonstrations of the power of animal magnetism in Louisville, Ky., both of its many singular phenomena, and especially of its efficacy as a curative agent, it is not the wish or the intention of the members of Mr. Keely's class to engage in any discussion as to the agent itself, or the '*modus operandi*' through which its startling and extraordinary results are developed. Their business is with those results alone as facts, and they feel it their duty to state distinctly the grounds on which they are disposed to fix a high estimate upon the exertions of Mr. Keely, and to do him full justice before the world.

"There is not originality in Mr. Keely's manner of inducing the magnetic state, though it was novel to most of us in this city, nor does he make such a claim; on the contrary, he expressly disavows it. Nor again does he advance or advocate any especial theory as to the source or mode of action of animal magnetism. This in his remarks he judiciously avoids, simply pointing out occasionally errors of theory in others, and conclusively demonstrating those errors by the plainest and fairest experiments in proof of his position.

"Mr. Keely's great merit appears to us to lie in the correct judgment that has guided him in the application of animal magnetism as a remedial agent. Of certain singular and anomalous cases of the cure of long-standing disease by the sudden shock of some violent mental emotion, familiar as facts to the well read physician, but whose rationale has never been understood so as to lead to any important practical good, Mr. K., though not a medical man, has,

we think, given a correct explanation. Guided by a fair deduction from this, he has, we think, with a peculiar felicity and success, applied the principle on which he conceived those results to depend to the remedial application of this science. The strong and unquestionable evidences of his success in other places, brought by Mr. K. to this city, together with the number of cases of disease to which he has, under the observation of his class, with greater or less success, applied his mode of treatment, induce us to express our firm conviction that as a system, to render the benefits of animal magnetism easily and generally available in the relief of disease and suffering, that adopted and taught by Mr. Keely is the best that has yet been offered to the public. The proportion of individuals affected by the magnetic influence is much greater than by other modes of induction; and, with very few exceptions, all brought under its agency, who are invalids, are in a greater or less degree benefitted, besides a number, to all appearances, entirely relieved from suffering and disease.

"Before closing these brief remarks we may be permitted to make one more statement, which in justice is due to Mr. Keely. The character of the practical magnetizer ought to be unimpeachable on the score of general morals and stern integrity. Mr. K. brings with him, from that part of the country where he has resided, the strongest testimonials on this especial point, and we are bound to say that his entire deportment during his visit to Louisville has been such as fully to confirm them. In establishing the practical benefits of magnetism, he has also manifested correct feeling to the afflicted who were in indigent circumstances, a number of such having received the full benefit of his services with the privilege of constant attendance at his asylum free from all charge.

"Subjoined are given a number of cases operated on and relieved by Mr. Keely, during his visit here, with the signatures of the individuals themselves. Most of them have been known by personal observation to a majority of the class; and every means have been adopted by the committee, appointed by the class for the purpose, to ensure accuracy in the statements thus offered to the public.

"SAM. D. BALDWIN, A.M.

"Preacher, Wesley Chapel Station, M.E. Ch. South.

"T. L. CALDWELL, M.D.

"WM. J. C. BAUM, M.D.

"C. PIRTLE, M.D.

"J. W. BRIGHT, M.D.

"GEO. D. PRENTICE.

"CASE No. 1. I have been for nine weeks so much affected with rheumatic pains that I could not for the whole time raise my right hand to my head, and, for part of the time, in the same condition with both hands. My joints were all stiff, and it was with great pain and much actual misery that I could walk at all. On yesterday evening chance threw me in the company of Mr. Keely, and I consented that he might make an effort to relieve me. He

Numerous Cures of various Diseases by Mr. Keely. 141

did so, and here is the result. In twenty minutes I could, without pain, raise and use my arms; in thirty minutes I was freed from all pain, having the perfect control and use of both arms and hands as well as I ever had; and in about the same length of time I found the pain and accompanying stiffness of my knees and ankles wholly gone, and could rise from my seat and walk with the activity of my younger days. It is now 10 o'clock, a. m., January 1, 1848, and there is no return of pain—none of stiffness. I am entirely free from either.

"For a great part of the time I have been unable to put on or pull off my cloak or to help myself at my meals. These difficulties are gone, *certainly gone*, but why or wherefore I cannot tell. I am only certain of being free from them, and that they departed under the touch of Mr. Keely.

"JAMES I. DOZIER.

"Jan. 1, 1848.

"I certify that Mr. Dozier remains perfectly well up to this date; has had no return of rheumatic pains.

"WILLIAM ELLIOTT.

"Louisville, Jan 31, 1846.

"CASE 2. This will certify that I have been partially deaf for four years past. My hearing at times was better than at others. I have been at no time able to hear conversation unless addressed in a loud conversational tone, and giving strict attention to the speaker. I have been magnetically treated by Mr. Keely for the last five days, and am now entirely and perfectly restored. I am the son of Robert Graham, of Rock Haven, Meade county, Ky. My age is nineteen years.

"WILLIAM U. GRAHAM.

"Louisville, Jan. 13, 1848.

"CASE 3. "This will certify that I have been afflicted with rheumatism for three years and three months in every joint in my body, suffering, more or less, continually; unable to attend to business three-fourths of the time. Nine months of the time I was confined to my bed. I was compelled to use a cane at all times. I have been under the care of 'medical men' of good standing, and the relief I experienced was but momentary. I called on Mr. Keely on the 1st of January, was magnetically treated for the removal of my rheumatism, and I was at once entirely relieved from pain. I have had no use for my cane since. I have been magnetized four times since. I have not been magnetically treated for the last nine days. I am now well and have been free from pain since the first operation, and I consider myself perfectly and positively cured. My age is twenty-nine years. Occupation miller and buhr maker. I have resided in this city twelve years.

"ROBERT HACKET.

"Louisville, Jan. 18, 1848.

"CASE 4. This will certify that my son James Mc Cory has been afflicted with palsy of the arm and leg for about three years past—so much so that he has been unable to use his arm. His leg has been so badly palsied that he walked with great difficulty touching his toes only to the ground; the sinews so drawn as to throw him in a crooked position. I had him treated by galvanism with scarce a shadow of relief. I was induced to place him under Mr. Keely's treatment on Tuesday, Jan. 18. My boy is now able to use his arm freely, with firmness and strength; he walks erect, steps with firmness, and is almost perfectly and fully restored. I live in Hamburg, Ia. I left him in the care of Rev. M. W. Sellers, who has witnessed the treatment and testifies to the facts as stated above.

"JOHN MCCORY.

"Louisville, Ky., Jan. 29, 1848.

"I know the above to be correct,

"M. W. SELLERS, Pastor of Little Flock
Church of the Regular Baptists, Sellersburgh, Clark co., Ia.

"CASE 5. William Jackson, deaf since four years of age, is now nineteen; hears ticking of a watch three-fourths of an inch from left ear and two and a half inches from the right;—cause, scarlet fever. Commenced treatment Jan. 10, 1848. He could not hear unless addressed in a very loud and full tone. He has been under Mr. Keely's charge for ten days, and he can now hear the same watch tick sixteen inches from the left ear and twelve inches from the right, and can hear when addressed in a common conversational tone. He is the son of Jane Gwinn, who has been living in this city 18 years.

"JANE GWINN.

"Jan. 21, 1848.

"Subscribed for her { C. Pirtle, M. D.,
Winniford Hollis.

"CASE 6. This will certify that I have been partially deaf for about six years. When I first called on Mr. Keely I could hear the ticking of his watch with difficulty in contact with my left ear, and at the distance of near a foot from my right. I have been under his treatment for two weeks, having been magnetized three or four times. I now hear the same watch tick with my left ear at about two and a half feet, and the right ear at the distance of six feet distinctly.

"J. W. ATHY,

"Jan. 19th, 1848.

"Second Clerk City of Louisville.

"CASE 7. This is to certify that some ten days since I came to Mr. Keely, afflicted with rheumatism in my neck, shoulders, arms, and hands, and had not been able to move my head without also moving my body. I had suffered in this way for six months. After being magnetically treated twice, I obtained entire relief in my arms and hands; after being magnetized twice more I obtained entire relief, and I have been free from pain ever since.

"MATILDA WEST.

"Jan. 29th, 1848.

"CASE 8. This is to certify that I have suffered from rheumatic affection, chiefly of the knee joints, for about fifteen years. The pain has not been constant, but the attacks frequent. The stiffness in my joints has been such that for fifteen years I have been unable to bend them so as to stoop down and rise up again. I have also been suffering from general nervous debility during the whole time. For some twenty years I have had a sore on my left ankle, occasioned by fever, and attended with much pain continually. I have also suffered much for some years with great soreness of my throat, supposed to be from ulceration. For the last three months, I have not been able to walk without assistance. When I first came to Mr. Keely's asylum, I had great difficulty in getting up the stairs, suffering much pain. I have been under his charge five days, and I now feel as well as I ever did in my life; my nerves are perfectly calm and my general health much improved. I now have the perfect use of my knees. The soreness in my throat is gone. The sore on my ankle is assuming a natural and healthy appearance, and I can now walk on it with ease, and part of the time entirely without pain.

"ELIZABETH GOLEN.

"Subscribed for her by the Rev. S. D. Baldwin.

"Louisville, Jan. 31, 1848.

"CASE 9. This will certify that my daughter Elizabeth, eight years old, had swelling of the knee joint of a scrofulous character, which came on after a severe attack of scarlatina. She suffered severe pain much of the time, and at no time was free from pain. She has been thus afflicted for about three years, and for the last six months unable to walk without a crutch. She has been under Mr. Keely's charge for some ten days. She has been free from pain for the last six days, and walks without her crutch. She now sleeps well: previously she slept but little, crying much of the time. The swelling of the knee has nearly disappeared and all the soreness is gone.

"PETER GEBERLIN.

"Louisville, Jan. 31, 1848.

"CASE 10. This is to certify that I have been afflicted with rheumatism for nearly four weeks, and for two weeks scarcely able to walk about the house; could not dress myself or comb my head; pain and inflammation in my limbs, soreness in my neck, with rigidity. Upon rising to walk, I was compelled to stand for some time before I could walk a step. I was not able to get into the carriage without assistance, and when I came to Mr. Keely's asylum I was assisted up the steps by two ladies.

"Jan. 4. I was magnetized the first sitting, and was greatly relieved of my suffering, and was able to walk without assistance. I rested well and slept soundly the following night; have been frequently magnetized since, and up to this date have continually improved. I am now almost entirely well.

"ELIZABETH ELZY.

"Louisville, Jan. 31, 1848.

"CASE 11. This will certify that my son, John Swank, has been partially deaf for twelve years; so much so that it was with difficulty he could be made to hear conversation when addressed in a loud, full tone. He has been under Mr. Keely's charge several days, and has been magnetically treated, since which he is enabled to hear when addressed in an ordinary conversational tone. Cause of deafness from cold.

"ELIZABETH SWANK.

"Louisville, Jan. 23, 1848.

"CASE 12. This will certify that I have been suffering from general nervous debility, morbid sensitiveness, and great depression of spirits. I cannot describe the continued deep depression under which I have been suffering. I have been under Mr. Keely's charge some fifteen days, and have been gradually recovering my buoyancy of spirits. My general health is rapidly improving; my nerves are materially corrected. I consider myself almost if not entirely cured by Mr. K.'s treatment. My age is 33 years. Occupation, carpenter. Have resided in this city 12 years.

"JULIUS C. JOHNSON.

"Louisville, Jan. 20, 1848.

"CASE 13. This will certify that I have been quite deaf for about three years, supposed to have been caused by too frequent bathing. When I called on Mr. Keely I could hear the tick of a watch three inches from my left ear, and but faintly when pressed against my right. I have been under Mr. Keely's charge occasionally for the last four weeks, and have been magnetically treated several times, and I am now able to hear the same watch tick distinctly nineteen inches from my right ear, and four and a half feet from my left. I can hear conversation in an under tone without giving more attention than others who never had any dullness of hearing. I am satisfied that I am sufficiently restored for all practical purposes.

"JAMES M. McDONALD.

"Louisville, Jan. 31, 1848.

"CASE 14. This is to certify that I have been afflicted at times for the last three years with chronic rheumatism in my shoulders. When I called on Mr. Keely (Jan. 11) the pain was quite severe. I have been magnetically treated by Mr. K. for the last few days, and I am now perfectly well.

"JOHN BARNES.

"Louisville, Jan. 17, 1848.

"CASE 15. This will certify that I have been affected for ten months, the result of paralysis of the entire left side, and have not at any time been able to walk or get up from my seat without assistance. I have also been suffering most excruciating pain in my joints each day and night; I have not at any time been entirely free from pain. I have also been suffering from palpitation of the heart for the last four months. This was my condition, as above stated, when,

by my request, Mr. Keely called to see me, and, strange as it may seem, in less than one hour's application he restored me to the entire and perfect use of my limbs. I would further state that my right arm has been almost entirely useless to me for the last three years from rheumatic affection. To be brief, I am free from pain, have the perfect use of my limbs, can get up from my seat with ease, and use my limbs as freely as I have ever done. I freely further state that I feel an unusual degree of strength, and walk with firmness and ease.

"MARGARET T. DONNE.

"We testify that the above is a truthful statement, being acquainted with all the circumstances of the case.

"JEMIMA OTT.

"JOHN BRADLEY.

"Louisville, Jan. 6, 1848.

"Mrs. Donne reports herself to the committee as being perfectly restored.

"January 30, 1848.

"CASE 16. My nephew, Robert Slaughter, aged 11 years, has been subject to occasional discharges from the ears for the last eighteen months, and dullness of hearing very perceptible within the last six months. He could hear the tick of a watch, when placed under Mr. Keely's charge, eight inches from the right and four inches from the left, has been magnetically treated several times, gradually improving. Can now hear the same watch six feet from either ear.

"JAMES B. SLAUGHTER.

"Louisville, Feb. 3, 1848.

"CASE 17. About 1832, I was first attacked with inflammatory rheumatism, which affected my system throughout. From this attack I recovered. But in 1833 was attacked with the cholera in Lexington, Ky.; since that period, from time to time, I suffered with rheumatic pains in various parts of the body until August, 1842, when I was attacked by paralysis of the right lower limb, with a good deal of pain. At this time I was on crutches, and visited Philadelphia for relief from some of the medical men of that place, but was not at all benefitted. I returned to Kentucky, and this crippled condition lasted with always more or less pain in the limb. Last August I was suddenly attacked with a fit, during which my left shoulder was injured, and I have suffered much pain in it up to the time I saw Mr. Keely, and was magnetized some three weeks since. To-day I have been magnetized for the fourth time. Since I was first magnetized I have suffered no pain. I came to Mr. Keely supported by a crutch and cane, which I have been compelled to use for the last two years; for *four years* previous I used two crutches. After the first time I was magnetized I walked home without the use of my crutch and cane, and have not been obliged to use them since, though I walk generally with a cane, on account of a shortness of the right

limb. I am regaining the use of my left arm, though it can never be perfectly restored; to-day, on examination, a dislocation of the head of the bone being discovered. My general health is much improved. I rest well on either side, and my sleep is good. I can get in and out of bed without assistance, and can dress and undress myself with ease, which it was impossible for me to do before I was magnetically treated by Mr. K., and I feel that I am steadily improving.

"WM. G. PETTIT.

"Louisville, Feb. 2, 1848.

"CASE 18. This will certify that I have been afflicted with *neuralgia* for nearly two years, affecting my whole system. The pain has been changing from one part to another, so that I have not for any time been free from pain. My right arm and left leg have been constantly affected since last March, one year ago, with the exception of three weeks in last October. I have seldom, since the time I have been affected, been able to sleep, unless I had a pillow between my knees. I have been under the treatment of Drs. Gross, Richardson, and McDowell. I think Dr. McDowell benefitted me, the others I am certain did not. On Saturday, Jan. 15, I called on Mr. Keely, at which time I had not been able to sit up for a few hours in each day, and for the last 'four' days previous to seeing Mr. K., I was unable to sit up more than one hour each day, and suffering constantly. It was with difficulty I got from my bed, and was not able to get my coat on without help. In this condition I saw Mr. K. for the first time; and at the first sitting (Saturday, January 15) I was magnetized, after which I was entirely free from pain, could walk with ease, and felt strong and vigorous. It is now Monday, 12 o'clock, January 17, and I continue the same, having sat up all day yesterday (Sunday), and also to-day, and still feel no disposition to go to bed. Dr. Pirtle assisted in this operation. I also laboured under nervous irritability, which produced muscular agitation, all of which have left me.

"THOMAS JONES.

"The above statements were given in my hearing, and the improvement came under my own observation.

"Louisville, Jan. 17, 1848.

"C. PIRTLE, M.D.

"I have been continually improving since the first magnetization.

"THOMAS JONES.

"January 28, 1848.

"CASE 19. This will certify that I have been deaf for twelve years previous to being treated magnetically by Mr. Keely. I could hear a watch tick $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from one ear and in contact with the other. I have been under his care for about four weeks, and can now hear the ticking of the same watch twenty-two inches from each ear. My age is 17 years. Deafness caused by scarlet fever.

"J. B. VARNUM.

"Louisville, Jan. 31, 1848.

"CASE 20. I hereby certify that I have been very deaf for twenty years; that under Mr. Keely's treatment I have been much improved.

"T. S. LUCKETT.

"Louisville, Jan. 26, 1848.

"CASE 21. Miss Elizabeth Blackburn, thirteen years old. Deafness of four years' standing. Cause not certainly known. Before treatment by Mr. Keely, she could hear the ticking of a watch but two and three-quarter inches from right ear and two from left. She has been magnetically treated eight times, and now hears the same watch tick twenty-four inches from the left and thirty-three from the right, and hears common conversation with ease when addressed in a full conversational tone.

"EDWARD BLACKBURN.

"ELIZABETH BLACKBURN.

"The improvement in the above case came under my observation.

"T. H. CALDWELL, M.D.

"Louisville, Feb. 3, 1848.

"CASE 22. W. H. Sale. Partial deafness. Age fourteen years. Could hear watch tick six and a half inches from one ear and three and a half from the other; has been magnetically treated by Mr. Keely several times. Now hears twenty-two inches from the right ear and thirteen from left.

"CASE 23. Miss Jones. Partially deaf for nineteen years before treatment by Mr. K. Could hear watch tick only in contact with either ear. Now hears same watch tick six inches from one ear and three and a half from the other.

"ANNIE JONES.

"February 1, 1848.

"CASE 24. *To Mr. I. I. Keely*: I conceive my health to be very materially improved by human magnetism under your treatment. For more than eight years I have been an agonizing sufferer from general nervous debility and consequent prostration of all healthful physical activity. Medical science and skill of the most eminent caste have never benefitted me a great deal, though continually and indefatigably employed during most of the time. My condition on application to you was a 'forlorn hope.' I tried magnetism from a sense of duty alone. My confidence in it was such that I was not inspired with even an expectation of good, much less with a full fledged faith. Faith, hope, or fancy have neither accelerated nor retarded my recovery. I have improved to a vigorous, a sudden, and a buoyant strength of body and mind, felt deeply within, and acknowledged with wonder by all my friends. My altered complexion, the disappearance of cutaneous eruptions, my improved vision, all of which have taken place within two weeks, give me indubitable testimony of the sudden, wonderful, and delightful remedial agency

of magnetism. With many thanks for your kindness and prayers for your universal success, I am your most obliged and ever grateful friend,

"SAMUEL D. BALDWIN, Preacher in charge Wesley Chapel Station, M. E. Church, South.

"Louisville, Jan. 28, 1848.

"CASE 25. In 1843 I was attacked with a complication of maladies, such as neuralgia, rheumatism, and an affection of the spine. From that period up to the treatment of Mr. Keely, some three weeks since, I have been either confined to my bed or totally unable to walk without assistance, and unfit for any practical business. I had never experienced any permanent relief from medical skill, though receiving the best. I am now almost entirely well, and, from my first subjection to Mr. K.'s skill, I have been free from pain; my appetite is good; the neuralgia has disappeared; the spinal disease is gone; only a vestige of rheumatism remains; and I can walk the streets with my cane on my shoulder. My age is 48 years: have been a citizen of this place since 1806. Residence on Main-street, between Floyd and Preston.

"L. E. HALL.

"Louisville, Jan. 31, 1848.

"CASE 26. Miss E. Vanvechen became blind two years since through amaurosis, and was subsequently admitted into the Kentucky institute for the blind as a pupil. Two weeks since she returned from Cincinnati, where for six months she has been under the treatment of Dr. Taliafero, in the Hotel for invalids, with slight benefit as to her vision. She has for two weeks been under the care of Mr. Keely, and has been magnetically treated six times. She can now see the hands of a clock and the figures on the face of a watch, which were utterly imperceptible to her two weeks ago. Her general health is also much improved by Mr. K.'s treatment.

"B. M. PATTON.

"Louisville, Jan. 30, 1848.

"CASE 27. This will certify that I have been for eight years labouring under a most afflicting neuralgic affection. It was with difficulty at times that all the exertions of an attentive family could keep life in me. Many nights I have been in spasms, from want of circulation of the blood, with my flesh very cold. Many of the most eminent physicians have attended me, and have exhausted their skill in vain in endeavours to restore me. It affords me pleasure to say, that, to the exertions of Mr. Keely, I am indebted for complete restoration, the misery in my head and spine having entirely disappeared—in short, I feel like a new man.

"T. G. LLOYD.

"Louisville, Jan. 31, 1848.

"CASE 28. An old coloured woman living at the house of Mr. Nimrod Bull, whose right arm has been paralyzed since 1832, and

so perfectly dead that she could not make the slightest voluntary motion, and the fingers clenched. She is improved by a few magnetizations so that she can raise the arm half way up, and bring her hand to her mouth, and can slightly move the fingers in flexion and extension; sensation perfectly restored, together with the natural temperature of the parts.

"Many other cases might be enumerated in which the magnetic treatment of Mr. K. has produced benefit to a greater or less degree, but the improvement has not been such as to render it necessary in the opinion of the committee to particularize them.

"Louisville, Ky., Feb. 3, 1848.

"The undersigned members of the committee appointed by Mr. Keely's class in Louisville to report on the cases treated by him, and whose report under date of Feb. 3rd, is before the public, take pleasure in stating at this time, that, as far as they have been able to gain information, the improvement in the cases reported has continued to the present time; some cases have continued to improve progressively, others seem stationary at the point at which they were left, and if any have fallen back it has been the combined effects of negligence in exposure and not complying with the injunctions made by Mr. K. to have the treatment occasionally followed up.

"THOMAS L. CALDWELL, M.D.

"WM. J. C. BAUM, M.D.

"GEO. D. PRENTICE.

"Louisville, March 31st, 1848.

"I have not seen any person who was magnetized by Mr. Keely last winter for the cure of diseases, who has relapsed or fallen back from the benefit which they received from him.

"J. W. BRIGHT, M.D.

"March 31st, 1848.

"I fully concur in the above statements, having no knowledge of any cases which have relapsed.

"C. PIRTLE, M.D."

The equally successful cases from the other cities of America would occupy *twenty pages* of *The Zoist*, and therefore I shall merely present their nature and number.

FRANKFORT.—A cancerous sore of the upper lip and gum with severe constant pain, of two years' standing, nothing done by regular practitioners had been of use, but mesmerism had already proved of the greatest benefit,—deafness of 11 years' standing,—debility with great muscular agitation, of 15 years' standing,—deafness, depression of spirits, &c., many teeth were extracted, and one operation upon the fangs lasted nearly half an hour without any pain except a very slight pain in the extraction of one tooth,—headache and offensive dis-

charge from the ears, with partial deafness,—deafness of 30 years' standing, with giddiness and impaired vision; physicians, clergymen, and others, add their testimony to this wonderful instance of the benefit of mesmerism,—deafness.

VERSAILLES.—Palpitation and debility,—severe pain of ankle after an accident,—neuralgia of 15 years' standing,—tetter of one year's standing,—sore eyes for three months,—palpitation and debility for six years,—scrofulous affections for five years,—deafness for eight years.

SHELBYVILLE.—Deafness in a boy,—deafness in a boy of seventeen for 12 years.

NEW ALBANY, GOITRE.—Spasms,—diseased knee,—deafness partially cured, and sore eyes,—swimming in the head,—partial blindness, and painful affection of the womb, after the failure of all other treatment,—rheumatism of 22 years' standing and weak eyes,—rheumatism of 35 years' standing,—rheumatism with deafness 14 years.

PARIS.—Rheumatism and deafness,—neuralgia and deafness,—neuralgic rheumatism,—aching of the abdomen with rigidity of its muscles, and great debility, of seven years' standing,—intense debility and nervous suffering,—neuralgic rheumatism,—neuralgia and intense sensitiveness, so that the touch of an instrument could not be borne, but under mesmerism the gums were cut and teeth extracted without any suffering or even the twitch of a muscle,—deafness.

St. LOUIS, Mo.—Dreadful neuralgia six years, after the failure of all medical treatment,—the severest indigestion, with vomiting, headaches, and giddiness,—severe general nervous affections four years, after the failure of all medical treatment,—very frequent attacks of spasms for 34 years, after the failure of the medical men in Manchester, England, as well as of those in America,—rheumatic neuralgia,—ophthalmia, and a tooth was extracted in the mesmeric state without any pain,—ophthalmia,—rheumatism and palpitation for 6 years, with depression of spirits, indigestion, and piles,—severe neuralgia of 8 months,—partial deafness 13 years,—partial deafness 10 months,—trembling from tobacco one year, permanently cured by one mesmerisation,—palpitation of 4 years, deafness of 18 years, and neuralgia and depression of spirits, after fruitless medical treatment,—violent neuralgia of many years, attacking for 24 hours at a time,—palsy of one leg and severe spinal pain,—painful abscess in the arm for five years,—

palpitation and sense of suffocation,—severe rheumatism many years, and ophthalmia 16 years, with partial deafness,—*opacity of the cornea* for one year, after ophthalmia, so that *it and the white were nearly of the same colour, only the extreme of light and darkness could be discerned, and she could not walk without a guide; the woman now reads large print and requires no guide, and her corneæ are almost clear,*—chronic ophthalmia, *and such opacity of the cornea that the pupil could scarcely be detected,*—palpitation, indigestion, spinal pain of 18 years,—giddiness of 40 years with severe pain of most joints, in a man 81 years of age,—trembling, twitchings, and pains even disturbing sleep, for 20 years, with sudden powerlessness of the hands—partial deafness,—debility of mental and muscular powers, &c., for 3 years,—partial deafness,—great pain and weakness after fractures,—severe spinal pain of a year's standing, confining the man to bed in a horizontal position, and pronounced incurable by many eminent physicians after the most tormenting applications; the patient was a confirmed sceptic, believing all was collusion, but, being carried in a bed to Mr. Keely's asylum, was freed from pain in a few minutes, sat upright for above an hour, then rose and sat down alternately many times, then walked about the room and down stairs to the carriage, and soon walked about every where and threw away his crutches, as several gentlemen testify,—dyspepsia, trembling, giddiness, &c., of 20 years,—scrofula and palpitation,—ill effects of chewing tobacco,—spasms which had occurred almost daily in a boy of thirteen from infancy. There are thirteen cases of similar cures effected by persons who had learnt mesmerism of Mr. Keely.

The Messrs. Keely (for there were two) were taken before a magistrate for thus curing and for teaching to cure.

“The city attorney contended that mesmeric lectures and examples of the effect of the science were in no wise different from feats of legerdemain, sleight of hand, &c., except in the fact that itinerant magicians confessed their tricks to be deceptive, while mesmerisers contended that theirs were truthful and positive effects produced by the agency of this magnetic power on the human system. He stated his belief to be that both were deceptive, that they were exhibitions of the same character, and that they should alike be taxed.

“The recorder decided that Mr. Keely's lectures were not exhibitions within the meaning of the ordinance, and dismissed the defendants.”

The editor of the newspaper from which I have extracted this statement remarks,—

"If the Messrs. Keely had been arraigned for *witchcraft*, we should have considered it an equally sustainable complaint. If teaching how the afflicted may be relieved from many nervous afflictions is an exhibition within the meaning of the ordinance, then every medical school in the city may be arraigned and made to pay for a license."

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

MESMERISM IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.

IV. Public Meeting at Bristol to found a Mesmeric Institute.

THE West of England furnished Mr. Wakley to our metropolis. The West of England has since produced a long number of able, honest, and strenuous mesmerists, and has the honour of being the first part of Great Britain in which a public meeting has been held to establish a mesmeric institution. The Earl of Ducie, a Gloucestershire nobleman, manfully took the chair upon the occasion; and, when we consider that he is a Lord-in-waiting to her Majesty, a member of the Rev. Dr. Cummings's Scotch Church, &c., his conduct is really above all praise. Mr. Janson, one of the speakers, has written many long, racy, and fearfully-telling articles in favour of mesmerism in the Exeter papers, and we publicly express to him our regret that we have always had too many cases and facts poured upon us by correspondents to be able to gratify our earnest wish of transferring his compositions to our pages.

Bristol Mesmeric Institute.

"A public meeting was held on Thursday at the Rooms of the Mesmeric Society, Park-street, for the purpose of establishing, or rather of perfecting, the embryo Mesmeric Institute of this city. The chair was taken by the Right Hon. The Earl of Ducie, and there a numerous and respectable company, which comprised several members of the medical profession, clergymen of the Church of England, and Dissenting ministers.

"The Chairman said he had come there to fill the chair at that meeting, not because he believed himself capable of giving much information on the subject, but simply to bear his testimony to the truth of all the facts in mesmerism which had come under his notice; and whether it concerned mesmerism or any other fact or 'ism' he should be always ready to bear his testimony to the truth, and that whether it was fashionable or unfashionable, received or not received (cheers). Persons opposed mesmerism on many grounds; some would not believe it at all, while others ascribed its powers to satanic agency (hear). Of the first class he had met with and heard

a great many, but he never had experienced one instance in which the party objecting had ever sat himself down quietly to investigate the subject, and to inquire whether there was truth or no truth in it (hear, hear). With regard to the second class of objectors, he could only say he had always been led to suppose that Satan presided more in our hearts than in the ends of our fingers (hear). At one time he was as great a sceptic as any lady or gentleman in the room could possibly be. He had once laughed at and ridiculed everything connected with the science, but he had been converted (cheers); and he hoped, if there were any ladies or gentlemen in the room who were still sceptics, that before they went out of it they would be converted too.

"With regard to his own conversion he thought it might not be out of place if he briefly narrated the circumstances under which it took place. He had been for years a very great sufferer from rheumatic gout, and one day a clergyman, a friend of his, came to him with a smile on his face and said to him, 'You can be cured.' He (Lord Ducie) replied that he was very glad of it, and his friend, who had been a sufferer from illness, then said, 'I was induced to go and consult a clairvoyant—she told me that all which the doctors had told me was wrong, informed me of what really was the matter, and cured me. I am confident that you may be cured too, and I should very much like for you to go and see the lady.' He (Lord Ducie) laughed at the suggestion, upon which the clergyman said, 'You may smile, but I should like you to see her very much, if you are not afraid to go.' When he was asked if he was afraid, he felt that a challenge was propounded, which he could not resist; and he accordingly went to the lady, who, when he took hold of her hand, told him a great deal about himself which he did not think that anybody knew. However, he thought it possible that those matters might have become known to his reverend friend, and that he might have been instructing her, and therefore he did not take any great account of that matter.

"Sometime afterwards he experienced a very severe attack of rheumatic gout, and as he was lying in bed with a great deal of nervous irritability, and without any power of sleep, he thought he would try mesmerism, and sent for the lady. The very first time he was mesmerised she succeeded, and left the room without his knowing it; he was enabled to get rest, and was much tranquillized. Day after day she produced similar effects, always being able to get out of the room without his knowledge, and he experienced very great relief from the mesmeric treatment. Owing to the benefit he had thus received, he was induced every morning for three months to go to a surgeon in London who practised mesmerism. While attending upon him he saw such a number of cases, so many extraordinary cures, and such a number of instances in which persons were readily relieved of intense pain and suffering, that he really could not very well doubt what he saw (hear). Indeed, where a person saw cases occurring daily, where he watched them attentively for three months, he could not very easily be deceived, and more especially when he went to see them doubtingly, as he did, and

rather with a view to pick holes in his neighbour's practice than with a frame of mind favourable to the reception of the facts (hear). He also saw one or two clairvoyants, and had an opportunity of testing their powers, so that he really was constrained to believe, for he could not disbelieve what he saw.

"In the highest departments or phenomena of mesmerism he for a long time was a disbeliever, and could not bring himself to believe in the power of reading with the eyes bandaged or of mental travelling; at length, however, he was convinced of the truth of those powers, and that, too, in so curious and unexpected a way that there could have been no possibility of deception. It happened that he had to call upon a surgeon on business, and when he was there the surgeon said to him, 'You have never seen my little clairvoyant.' He replied that he never had, and should like to see her very much. He was invited to call the next day, but upon his replying that he should be obliged to leave town that evening, he said, 'Well, you can come in at once; I am obliged to go out, but I will ring the bell for her and put her to sleep, and you can ask her any questions you please.' He (Lord Ducie) accordingly went in; he had never been in the house in his life before, and the girl could have known nothing of him. The bell was rung, the clairvoyant appeared; the surgeon, without a word passing, put her to sleep, and then he put on his hat and left the room. He (Lord Ducie) had before seen something of mesmerism, and he sat by her, took her hand, and asked her if she felt able to travel. She replied, 'Yes;' and he asked her if she had ever been in Gloucestershire, to which she answered that she had not, but should very much like to go there, as she had not been in the country for six years: she was a girl of about 17 years old. He told her that she should go with him, for he wanted her to see his farm. They travelled (mentally) by the railroad very comfortably together, and then (in his imagination) got into a fly and proceeded to his house. He asked her what she saw; and she replied, 'I see an iron gate and a curious old house.' He asked her, 'How do you get to it?' she replied, 'By this gravel walk:' which was quite correct. He asked her how they went into it, and she replied, 'I see a porch, a curious old porch.' It was probably known to many that his house, which was a curious old Elizabethan building, was entered by a porch as she had described. He asked her what she saw on the porch, and she replied, truly, that it was covered with flowers. He then said, 'Now we will turn in at our right hand; what do you see in that room?' She answered with great accuracy, 'I see a bookcase and a picture on each side of it.' He told her to turn her back to the bookcase, and say what she saw on the other side; and she said, 'I see something shining like that which soldiers wear. She also described some old muskets and warlike implements which were hanging up in the hall; and upon his asking her how they were fastened up (meaning by what means they were secured), she mistook his question, but replied, 'The muskets are fastened up in threes,' which was the case. He then asked of what substance the floors were built; and she said, 'Of black and white squares;'

which was correct. He then took her to another apartment, and she very minutely described the ascent to it as being by four steps. He (Lord Ducie) told her to enter by the right door, and say what she saw there. She said, 'There is a painting on each side of the fireplace.' Upon his asking her if she saw anything particular in the fireplace, she replied, 'Yes, it is carved up to the ceiling,' which was quite correct, for it was a curious old Elizabethan fireplace. There was at Tortworth-court a singular old chesnut-tree, and he told her that he wished her to see a favourite tree, and asked her to accompany him. He tried to deceive her by saying, 'Let us walk close up to it;' but she replied, 'We cannot, for there are railings round it.' He said, 'Yes, wooden railings;' to which she answered, 'No, they are of iron,' which was the case. He asked, 'What tree is it,' and she replied that she had been so little in the country that she could not tell; but upon his asking her to describe the leaf, she said, 'It is a leaf as dark as the geranium leaf, large, long, and jagged at the edges.' He (Lord Ducie) apprehended that no one could describe more accurately than that the leaf of the Spanish chesnut. He then told her he would take her to see his farm, and desired her to look over a gate into a field which he had in his mind and tell him what she saw growing. She replied that the field was all over green, and asked if it was potatoes, adding that she did not know much about the country. It was not potatoes, but turnips. He then said, 'Now look over this gate to the right, and tell me what is growing there.' She at once replied, 'There is nothing growing there; it is a field of wheat, but it has been cut and carried.' This was correct; but knowing that in a part of the field grain had been sown at a different period, he asked her if she was sure that the whole of it had been cut. She replied, that she could not see the end of the field, as the land rose in the middle, which, in truth, it did. He then said to her, 'Now we are on the brow can you tell me if it is cut?' She answered, 'No, it is still growing here.' He then said to her, 'now, let us come to this gate, tell me where it leads to?' She replied, 'Into a lane.' She then went on and described everything on his farm with the same surprizing accuracy, and upon his subsequently inquiring he found that she was only in error in one trifling matter, for which error any one who had ever travelled (mentally) with a clairvoyant could easily account without conceiving any breach of the truth.

"This case completely put an end to all his doubts, for he could not imagine the possibility of any collusion. If the girl had even known who he was and where his farm was, she could not possibly have known the state of his crops, and that his field of wheat had been cut, for at the time he did not know it himself (hear). Being thus convinced, he felt it to be his duty to come forward and bear his testimony to the truth of mesmerism, both with regard to its higher and its lower powers. Having said thus much of his own belief and conversion he would now briefly state the object of the meeting.

"A number of gentlemen of this city having formed themselves

into a committee for the purpose of investigating mesmerism as a science, and being fully convinced of its truth, of its advantages, of the good which resulted from its use, and the relief it afforded in disease in cases which had not yielded to medical practice, they were desirous of seeing its benefits more widely diffused and extended to the relief of the poor, and being mostly gentlemen in business, and unable to give up their time to the numerous cases which were presented, they now sought to obtain funds so as to enable them to engage paid agents, who should apply themselves, under medical care, to the cure of diseases; and he was glad to find that there were medical gentlemen in this city willing to superintend the operations of the mesmerisers, because he had ever considered mesmerism to be a science, the practice of which ought to be carried out under medical supervision.

"There was one fact he had omitted to state, and which he should like to mention in connexion with the power of clairvoyance. During the time of his attendance on the surgeon in London he saw the clairvoyant under whom he operated, and one day he was surprised to find her rubbing the bandage which hung against the wall with the armature of the magnet. He said to her, 'Sarah, what are you doing?' to which she replied, 'O, this magnetizes as well, and saves my strength.' He asked her how she knew this, and she said the same as she knew everything else. About two months after this Dr. Gregory's translation of Reichenbach's work came out, and early in its pages he stated he had discovered that the mesmeric force did exist in the magnet separate from its magnetic power, because he found that his sensitive patients were affected by the armature of the magnet, the same as by the hand. He thought this wonderful, that an untaught, ignorant woman, as this clairvoyant was, should, by her own clairvoyance—her own innate power—discover that which had engaged the attention of philosophers and men of science for many years.

"Mr. Saunders, having apologized for the absence of Mr. Stone, barrister, who was unavoidably detained, but who would otherwise have attended and given the object of the meeting his fullest support, proceeded to read the report of the committee as follows:—

"The object of the present meeting is to present, in a more public manner, what has been lately doing at Bristol in reference to mesmerism.

"The origin of the Bristol Mesmeric Institute arose from the following circumstances:—

"About two years since a few gentlemen, desirous of thoroughly testing the truths of mesmerism, formed themselves into a society, under the name of the Mesmeric Investigation Society. The committee were limited in number, they held their meetings fortnightly, and on these occasions invited visitors to witness their experiments. The society itself, with the exception of one member who retired after the third meeting, all became satisfied of the existence and truthfulness of mesmeric phenomena, and the same may be truly said of the various visitors.

"The society having thus realized their first intentions, and during their investigations seen a variety of cases in which mesmerism had effected great good as a curative agent, and in many instances, after all other means had failed, they became desirous of seeing its benefits more generally extended, and for this pur-

pose have subscribed their names as willing to carry out, as far as possible, these intentions.

"To give the fullest extent and sanction to these intentions, the committee put themselves in communication with several parties who were ostensibly known to be favourable to the subject, and they have now the proud satisfaction of announcing that their applications for countenance and support have been responded to in the most satisfactory manner. The committee feel the highest pleasure in stating that on application being made to their noble chairman, the president, Earl Ducie, his lordship most readily responded to it, and then announced that his own convictions on the subject were so confirmed, that he should not hesitate to declare them publicly. It is, therefore, owing to his lordship's declarations that we are indebted to our meeting on this occasion, and have the privilege of his present support. The applications to the various other members of the society as vice-presidents were equally satisfactory, and their fullest acquiescence has been shown by their presence, or by the most conclusive reasons for their inability to attend.

"After what has lately transpired in the mesmeric world, an epitome of which will be found in the pages of *The Zoist*, it would be superfluous to enlarge further on mesmerism as a curative agent, except to indicate that there is a large class of diseases for which there does not appear so adequate a remedy as mesmerism—amongst these will be found epileptic and other similar nervous affections; there is also another important feature in its application to surgical operations without pain.

"It is, therefore, with a view to extend these benefits to the poorer classes that the society now appeals to the support of the public, assuring them that there are now many distressing and deserving applicants, who are anxiously waiting to avail themselves of mesmerism in their particular cases. The society are desirous of having properly-qualified mesmerists engaged, who will act under the direction of the medical officers and acting committee. This, however, cannot be accomplished for want of funds."

"Mr. H. U. Janson, of Pennsylvania-park, Exeter, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the progress which mesmeric science had made in the city with which he was connected, especially as a therapeutic or curative agent; for that mesmerism did possess an important power in that respect could not be doubted by any one who had looked into the subject. He was requested the other day to attend a meeting at Tiverton, in which town there was a famous mesmeric operator. At that meeting 26 of the best cases were selected, and he (Mr. Janson) should never forget the effect produced on his mind. The cured patients all came forward and told their own stories, which were confirmed by many respectable persons who knew them well. Several of those cases had before been discharged from hospitals as incurable, and one man, who had been afflicted for twenty years, told his tale with so much artless gravity that no one could doubt it. Some time ago, Mr. Parker, a talented surgeon of Exeter, whom he (the speaker) considered one of the lights on the side of mesmerism, had a case of aneurism, the operation for which consisted in cutting down into and through the artery, taking up the ends, and tying them with what were called ligatures. That patient had before been operated upon at the Exeter hospital, and his sufferings were so intense that it took eight men to hold him. Afterwards the aneurism broke out again, and the poor man was terrified almost to death at the thought of the pain. Mr. Parker mesmerised him, and his was a favourable case (all cases,

it was important to bear in mind, were not alike). Mr. Parker operated, divided the artery, and completed the operation, made everything right, and then awakened the man, who, up to the present moment, had not the slightest recollection of the operation having been performed. It was not for him (Mr. Janson) to say much of his own doings, but he might state that he had practized mesmerism for the period of six years, during which time he had had come under his personal observation every mesmeric phenomenon which he had ever read or heard of—not only the lower phenomena of coma, traction, insensibility to pain, rigidity, &c., but the higher phenomena, community of taste, mental travelling, introvision, and latterly one case of prevision, which he conceived to be the highest power—for what could exceed the power of prophecy? This power was almost too high to be mentioned at a mixed public assembly, for our present state of knowledge was not sufficiently advanced for it. In the case he referred to the patient had, by the power of prevision, foretold every circumstance, even to the most minute—not only the progress of the disease, the period at which she would be affected by particular symptoms, but she had likewise foretold other things, in regard of which there could have been no deception or collusion. For instance the patient once said, ‘I shall have a letter delivered to me next Thursday, at 3 o’clock.’ He had put down the fact in his note-book. The patient had told him what would be the contents of the letter, and had dictated those contents word by word, some of the matters treated of not being mere common-place matters. He had written down the letter from the dictator, and when it afterwards arrived had taken the letter in one hand and the note-book in his other, and had found them correspond in every particular (hear, hear). He scarcely expected this fact to be believed—the power was too much in advance of the present day; but he considered it right to place before the meeting all he knew. Mr. Janson went on to enlarge on the value of mesmerism as a curative agent in sciatica, neuralgia, and other diseases, and cited a case to illustrate its extraordinary power in mitigating the last-named painful disorder; and, after relating the particulars of his own conversion, he concluded by expressing the satisfaction it afforded him to find the truth being rapidly accepted by the class which had at first opposed it with the greatest degree of virulence—the religious community. It would be remembered that a book was published to prove that mesmerism was a satanic agency; this feeling had died away, mesmerism was now being strongly taken up by the very class which had most denounced it, and Dr. Scoresby, a divine well known by his writings, and who was a member of the Royal Society, had recently delivered lectures in favour of it at Torquay.

“Mr. G. Cumberland seconded the resolution, which passed *nem. con.*

“Mr. Barham proposed, ‘That a mesmeric institution be established in Bristol, to be supported by voluntary contribution.’ After stating the process by which his mind had become convinced of the truth of mesmerism, Mr. B. said, he was once at a party at

Dr. Elliotson's, where a great many literary and scientific men were present, and among the cases was one of a young lady who exhibited a high degree of nervous sensibility. Wishing to try an experiment which should be a complete test as far as his own mind was concerned, he obtained permission to operate, and after making a few passes, he produced all the usual forms of traction, &c. Suspecting that this might, after all, be feigned, he resolved upon trying, by the mere force of mental volition, to raise her eyelids so as to discover the eye. He stood behind her, and placed his hand above without touching her, and with a very few efforts up came the eyelids, exhibiting the eyes in that peculiar state in which they were in the condition of somnambulism, having a glassy glare, and 'no speculation' in them. He then tried if he could by the same power of volition draw the eyes from side to side. He passed his hand behind her quietly, so that she should not by possibility hear any noise or motion through the air, and derive no hint of what effect he wished to produce, but his will prevailed over her visual organs, which followed his hand with rapidity and certainty as he moved it from side to side, till at length it obtained a rapidity of lateral motion which he would defy any one not in a mesmeric state to equal. Her eyes positively vibrated with such celerity that all were astonished, and regarded the case as the most convincing proof they had seen. Another case he would cite was of a poor woman in the neighbourhood of London, who had a severe nervous disease, which had kept her awake for ten or twelve nights, and reduced her to that state of nervous irritability that her mind was becoming affected, and she said, that if she could not get to sleep she should certainly go mad. The medical attendants, three or four in number, did all they could by way of medical treatment, and the strongest narcotics were given to her in vain. At last they resolved to try mesmerism, and after one or two experiments she was put into a sound sleep, which lasted for three hours, and she awoke much better. This was repeated every day, and it was observed that she always slept for three hours unless when a few passes were made just before her time of awaking, in which case she would sleep for three hours longer. On one occasion she was kept sleeping for nine hours, and at length she was completely recovered, grew strong, and expressed great gratitude for having had her life saved. Mr. Barham concluded as follows:—The great majority of those who have carefully investigated this subject have come to a conclusion that there exists in man, as one of his constituent principles, a certain subtle element, known by the names of animal electricity, animal magnetism, galvanism, the nervous energy, the nervous fluid, &c. This element occupies a sort of intermediate position between soul and body, and it is by means of this animal electricity that our mental will acts on our bodily organs. For instance—when I will to move my hand, the mental volition acts immediately on the electricity within me, and that puts the arm in motion. It is moreover proved by experiments that a man's will has not merely the power of circulating electric currents through his own body, but likewise of transmitting

them to other bodies, so as to influence them by its operations in a very remarkable manner. There is every reason to believe that this science of mesmerism or animal magnetism, which treats of the nature and laws of animal electricity, was more or less familiar to the initiated sages of all times who were conversant with the spiritual energies of nature, and that they employed it as an effective medicinal agent, and that by it they wrought many wonders, which were accounted magical and supernatural. Since its revival under the genius of Mesmer, it has been subjected to the most rigid scrutiny of the most distinguished philosophers, and been tested by all imaginable methods. The evident palpable result of this severe scrutiny is its rapid growth in public estimation. By its own sheer truth and merit—by the stern force of facts and experiments—it has made numberless disciples from those who were its bitterest foes. And it is most remarkable that those who have given it the greatest amount of examination have thereby attained most faith in its efficacy, while those who have never given it a fair and full trial are those that are most incredulous. It is very observable that a belief in mesmerism is not confined to any particular clique or party of interested individuals, but that it has gained the assent and patronage of our leading thinkers of all orders and classes. Kings, bishops, noblemen, lawyers, and physicians now openly profess their convictions of its truth and importance. Those who have given it full candid investigation have been generally obliged to believe it whether they liked it or not, by observing that the mesmeric operations produced similar specific effects under all varieties of circumstances, and that no collusion could possibly exist among multitudes of the patients whom it influenced. And thus the wise, the learned, the pious, and philanthropic, have arrived at a belief in mesmerism—yea, and a hearty love of it; for they see that its influences are almost always of a benignant and curative nature. They conscientiously approve of that magnetic power which is the instrument of procuring sleep, mitigating pain, healing disease, and producing a bland insensibility to tortures that can scarcely be sustained without death, or imagined without horror. Let us hear no more, then, of that ungenerous and untenable theory respecting mesmerism, which ascribes it to Satan and denounces it as diabolic. Let us rather devoutly thank heaven for a therapeutic power, whereby we are now enabled to extend human happiness and reduce human misery in those instances wherein all other remedies have failed. And let us in future confine our comminations and exorcisms to those unmistakeable specimens of malignity and vice which force true men to weep and bleed. Neither is the objection that mesmerism is no more than a peculiar act of imagination of any practical value; for no imagination is at all sufficient to produce the physical phenomena of mesmerism, or the astonishing facts of clairvoyance. Be this as it will, the British government, and many philosophic individuals, are now establishing in this country and abroad mesmeric institutions and hospitals devoted to the study and practice of mesmeric science, because they believe its efficacy in alleviating many diseases

and infirmities of mind and body. It seems, therefore, to be right that in Bristol, which has often been called the second city in our kingdom, a mesmeric institute should be established for the cultivation of the science and the benefit of persons of all orders whose cases may require mesmeric treatment. There can be little doubt that such an institute will be of practical service, and be found of considerable value among the various benevolent establishments for which this city is justly renowned.

"Dr. Storer seconded the resolution with great pleasure, and could do so with much honesty on account of his experience as a medical man. Previous to his adoption of mesmerism he was extensively engaged in practice in London, and was attached to the medical staff of a hospital where he had an opportunity of seeing a great number of diseases of the nervous system. He was satisfied, and he was sure that every surgeon who would honestly express his opinion must agree with him, that in nervous disease the ordinary means of medical treatment afforded no security. He had become a convert under Dr. Elliotson, at the London University, and had since practised mesmerism extensively; and he most unhesitatingly said that he had been enabled to control nervous disease in cases in which ordinary medical treatment had proved quite unavailing. Nay, he might take higher ground, and state its reference to mental philosophy; also that mesmerism was applicable to cases of insanity; and he was happy to say that there were now many establishments where insanity was treated on the principles of mesmerism and phrenology, without a knowledge of which sciences no man was competent to the treatment of cases of insanity. In almost every disease mesmerism had manifested extraordinary power. In the last number of *The Zoist* there was a case in which the lady of the Archbishop of Dublin had cured a poor woman in her neighbourhood of a blindness of twenty-six years' standing. Deafness and every disease of the nervous system was more or less brought under its influence, and as a medical man, having studied the old school of physic and the new school, he could state that mesmeric provision was absolutely needed for the poorer classes. The number who applied for assistance was extraordinary: the society did all it could, and undertook as many cases as possible; but a few hands were not equal to the work. He should be glad if every hospital had a mesmeric ward, but as such was not the case they must endeavour to supply the want by an independent institution.

"The resolution having been adopted,

"The Rev. H. I. Roper moved the appointment of the following officers of the society—President, the Right Hon. Earl Ducie; vice-presidents, J. A. Gordon, Esq., Naish-house; General White, Bath; H. U. Janson, Esq., Exeter; John Stone, Esq., Clifton; T. W. Saunders, Esq., London; Brooke Smith, Esq., Bristol; Rev. George Sandby, vicar of Flixton; and Major Buckley, Cheltenham; treasurer, Mr. Hazard; secretary, Mr. Saunders; and committee, Messrs. Sells, Cumberland, Howells, Evans, W. Hazard, Mathews, Ryland, Buck, and Dr. Storer. Mr. Roper said, without claiming any extensive acquaintance with mesmeric science, he knew enough, had

read enough, and had seen enough to convince him that it was a very important medical agent granted to us by the mercy of God for the relief of human suffering (applause). The cases that had derived benefit from it were far too many and too well authenticated to leave any doubt upon the mind; and he was, therefore, exceedingly glad that a mesmeric institute was formed in Bristol, for the purpose of diffusing the knowledge of mesmeric science, and giving the poorer classes an opportunity of participating in its advantages. The supporters of mesmeric science need not much disturb themselves on account of the prejudices which still remained in the minds of some. It was the fate of every onward movement to meet at the outset with opposition. It seemed almost essential to every great advance in science that such should be its early history (hear). He did not doubt that in a very few years mesmerism would occupy the position which its friends wished for it, as an important curative means, and that many who now looked at it with shyness, with mistrust, and even with aversion, would be disposed to view it, as he believed it to be—as a most important blessing, emanating from the author of all good.

“Mr. W. Hazard, in seconding the resolution, said he had been a follower of mesmerism for sixteen years, and in bearing testimony to its power as a medical agent, stated a case in which he had cured a case of scrofulous disease of the legs of five years standing, which had been rejected from the hospitals as incurable, and in which the wounds extended from near the ankle to just below the knee. In that case the patient predeclared his cure in nine months, in which time it was actually consummated.

“Mr. Henry C. Howells was then called upon to move the fourth resolution. He said, Mr. Chairman, eleven years ago when residing in Western Pennsylvania, on the banks of the beautiful Ohio, I had lent to me a strange kind of book, and as it then appeared to me, a new thing under the sun. It was a work written by the Rev. Mr. Townshend, on mesmerism. I read it with astonishment, and pondered over every page. It bore the impress of truth, and I felt satisfied that it was the production of an honest man; so that it appeared to me, to require more credulity to believe that the author was imposing a cheat upon his readers, than to admit the truth of all the marvellous accounts he gave. While his reasoning was natural and conclusive, it led me also to consider what analogy did mesmerism bear to any known science: that of mineral magnetism at once presented itself. I then concluded that if one mass of inert matter could convey its properties to another, and that to a third, and so on, if mesmerism were not true, there must be a blank in human science; and man, the noblest work of the Creator, and the epitome of all creation, possessed less power over man and other sentient beings, than one piece of metal does over another. This appeared to be impossible. I therefore, gave my assent to mesmerism *ex animo*. I was equally satisfied that whatever powers, physically, intellectually, morally, or spiritually man now possesses, man always did possess; and, also, whatever powers man does possess, must

have been the impartation of a wise and beneficent Creator; and, finally whatever the Creator does must be for the good and happiness of *His* intelligent creature man; who, even in his fallen state, bears some impress of the deity. I therefore came to the happy conclusion that mesmerism is the gift of God.

"A few months after this, I had an opportunity of witnessing a great variety of mesmeric phenomena which greatly delighted me, as an evidence of the truth of all I had read, but gave me no new idea on the subject. Four years elapsed, when I returned to England, and was surprized to find that mesmerism was less understood and less believed here than in America.

"I felt satisfied that human magnetism (which I think is a better name) was intended and bestowed as a blessing on mankind; that it was the primeval curative agent, known and practised before man's ingenuity discovered any other, either in plants or minerals. The first impulse of nature is now, as it always must have been, on receiving a contusion or feeling a pain, to stroke the hand over the part; this is the *germ* of mesmerism. I found too, that most medical men opposed mesmerism with their strongest arguments; a shrug of the shoulders or a hearty laugh; that religious people and especially the most reputedly religious, had settled it in their minds to be satanic altogether. While I advocated it as a natural science, and therefore, the *gift of God*, some would look at me with a kind of shrinking horror, and a prying gaze, as though my visage was altered for the worse, and some satanic buddings appeared on my head! It was then my turn to laugh, for facts and reason failed. I therefore proposed, to some of my religious friends, a question to solve. After stating that mesmeric somnolency with some was induced without the intervention of a second person, but simply by their looking at an object on the wall, it may be even a potato on the end of a skewer; my problem was, does his satanic majesty take possession of the skewer or the potato, so as to mesmerise the patient.

"My argument that mesmerism is of divine origin, because it removes pain and heals diseases, is gravely met by 'Satan you know sometimes transforms himself (in appearance) as an angel of light.' To this my reply was, did he *ever* do so to relieve suffering humanity, either in body or mind; give me but *one* instance, since the world began, and I give up mesmerism as his work. But as none can be adduced, and you say it is his work, if it be so he certainly must, in these reforming times, have undergone a considerable change for the better, and be impelled by some yearning pity for those whom he formerly sought to destroy. He then is a hopeful character after all!

"But gravely, Mr. Chairman, it is deeply to be regretted, that the ignorant, the superstitious, and the hyper-religious, have always brought forward the Scriptures of truth to oppose and frustrate the truth of natural science; and when they are thus made antagonist to each other, the former must suffer. The laws of nature were by the divine Architect first established; and he is no true friend to religion who quotes its high authority to make void those laws, any

more than they who said, 'He casteth out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils.'

"When blessings come near home, Sir, we know their worth; and when I consider, and can attest, that I have often in twenty minutes relieved the partner of my life of excruciating anguish, I long that every human being, rich or poor, should fully understand and successfully practise mesmerism. Mine is no narrow creed; as a member of the human family, I account every man my brother, and every woman my sister, the wide world over; and I can but half enjoy my blessing, without earnestly desiring that it may be enjoyed by every being that bears the form of man.

"To all religious persons, especially who desire to consider the subject of mesmerism, I would respectfully and earnestly recommend the works of the Rev. Mr. Townshend and the Rev. Mr. Sandby, also that invaluable periodical called 'THE ZOIST.'

"I have spoken of medical men. They have generally scoffed at mesmerism, because it is by them considered unprofessional; it is also within the reach of all men of common sense. But their opposition is futile; the light of truth cannot be confined to a pill box; the people will teach them. They must therefore, however, reluctantly come up to the mark, and be content to follow in the wake of the noble Drs. ELLIOTSON, ESDAILE, and others; who for having cheerfully laid upon the altar of truth their professional honours and their pecuniary interests, have been subject to the abuse of vulgar and narrow, though somewhat educated minds. They have been called quacks, because they have told plain truth in plain English. Truly noble minds need no meretricious guises of mystery, hieroglyphics, and dead language. What is beneficial to man, they desire that all men should know. When medical men are right on this subject, we shall see mesmerisers kept in all the hospitals of the kingdom, the same as in India under Dr. Esdaile. With these remarks, Sir, I beg to move the adoption of the following resolution, 'That a subscription be opened for the support of the Bristol Mesmeric Institute.'

"Dr. Stokes seconded the resolution, and said he had found mesmerism in his own practice to be emphatically the medicine of the poor. It had produced wonderful effects among them, and would doubtless continue to do so, either alone or as an adjunct of the recognized medical treatment.

"The resolution having been adopted,

"Lord Ducie apologized for the absence of Mr. J. Adam Gordon, who was a warm supporter of the science, but, having only just returned from Paris, had been prevented from attending. Mr. William Herapath, who was well known to them as a gentleman of high scientific attainments, was likewise prevented being present, although the cause had his kindest wishes.

"Mr. Saunders then announced a donation of £10 from Lord Ducie, one of £5 by the Rev. Mr. Martyn, of £2 by Mr. Janson, and several of £1 each. Thanks having been voted to the noble chairman, the meeting broke up."

V. *Various Mesmeric Cures.* By MR. CAPERN, of Tiverton.

A MEETING was held in the Mayoralty Room of Tiverton, on Thursday, October 5th last, for the purpose of investigating many extraordinary cures effected in various diseases by Mr. Thomas Capern with mesmerism. A hundred and twenty ladies were present, and, besides them, John Heathcote, Esq., M.P., S. Amory, Esq., of London, F. Hole, Esq., George Coles, Esq., John Barne, Esq., H. Dunsford, Esq., A. Brewin, Esq., nearly the whole of the clergy and the dissenting ministers, and the greater part of the members of the medical profession, who had been especially invited to attend.

The Mayor, John Snell, having kindly consented to take the chair, Mr. Capern made some remarks upon various branches of mesmerism, and then introduced successively about thirty individuals, all of whom had received more or less benefit from his manipulations. Each stated in his or her own simple language the nature and extent of the disease, and the amount of improvement, or the duration of perfect cure. Among the diseases removed, and many in a space of time so incredibly short that only the direct evidence of the patients themselves could have sufficed to establish the facts, were *tic douloureux*, chronic rheumatism, fits, spinal affection, paralysis, and palpitation of the heart; some of the cases having been discharged as incurable from the Devon and Exeter Hospital. At the conclusion of the investigation, which lasted nearly three hours, the Rev. John Spurway moved, and the Rev. Mr. Madgin seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Capern, the reverend gentlemen speaking in the highest terms of the able manner in which Mr. C. had treated his subject, and also of the candour and honour of the proceeding, by which every individual case had been thus boldly subjected to the trying ordeal of a hearing in the presence of so large a number of well-informed and professional gentlemen.

The entire company, a considerable portion of which consisted of ladies connected with the principal families in the neighbourhood, expressed their satisfaction by frequent bursts of applause.

We understand that Mr. Capern received a most flattering letter from Lord Palmerston, expressing the deep interest felt by his lordship in the progress of the science, and earnestly requesting a report of the proceedings connected with the meeting. Mr. Capern intends publishing all these cases, with a large number of others.

ELIZABETH POPE, Wellbrook, aged 50 years, stated, "about 27 years since, I had a severe attack of fever, from which I lost the use of my limbs, was troubled much with rheumatics and palpitation of the heart, extreme noise in the head, and deafness in one ear. I have been *under various surgeons, but they done me no good*; and I was in the *Bristol Hospital*, from where I was discharged as *incurable*; I was not able to walk since my first attack, (until I applied to Mr. Capern) without the use of crutches, and then only on tiptoe. After a few applications to him, I lost the deafness, and since then I gradually got better, and am now *able to walk about*, and do all my washing, domestic affairs, &c., and although living a considerable distance from the church, I have been able to *walk there twice a day*."

JOHN CROOTE, mason, Townsend. "I caught a chill through working in an oven, from which I was ill for near five years, during which time my sufferings were almost unbearable; two years and a quarter of which five years I was patient of the *Exeter Hospital*, and for the last eight weeks of the two years and a quarter I was ordered to drink two quarts of oil per week. On my becoming an out-patient, the doctors gave it as their opinion that I should *never be able to perform a day's labour again*. However I was induced to try the effect of mesmerism, and applied to Mr. Capern. Immediately after the passes had been made, I walked into the house with more ease than I did during the time of my illness—previous to the passes being made I had not slept above an hour at a time for the six preceding weeks. The effect of the passes caused an undisturbed sleep for sixteen hours. The passes were repeated for ten or twelve successive weeks, and the pain was lessened each time. At the expiration of that period I was able to *resume my daily labour, and I am now as strong and as well as ever I was in my life*. It is a year and a half since I was cured.

"My wife had been, *he further stated*, a cripple seventeen years, and confined to her bed for five years from rheumatism. She was unable to do anything. She experienced very considerable relief from the passes being made, so much so, that she was able to use her needle, which she had not done for six years before."

JOHN LEITHBRIDGE, labourer, Westex. "Whilst at work in a hay field (occupied by Mr. Ford) in the summer, 1847, I felt a sudden attack of inflammation of the knee. The swelling was so rapid that my friends were compelled to

cut my clothes from me. I was confined to my bed and under the surgeon's care for six weeks: from thence I was removed to the Exeter hospital, where I was a patient nine weeks. There was also a contraction of the muscles of the knee. An issue was burnt near the knee, and thirty peas daily were placed in it, for the purpose of opening a wound. This caused me great pain. At the time of my leaving, a consultation of surgeons was held, and the case pronounced *hopeless and incurable, and they stated I should be crippled for life.* And I was compelled to walk with two sticks. I met with Mr. Capern in Westex, and he observing the pain and difficulty I had in walking, offered to make a few passes over me, which he did, and in five minutes I was enabled to walk without the assistance of my stick. Within a few weeks the pain left me, but the stiffness was not removed for 10 or 12 weeks, after which time I was enabled to *resume my daily labour, and am now as well as ever I was in my life."*

WILLIAM ISAACS, Back Lane, Tiverton. In the employ of Messrs. Heathcoat and Co. "I had an attack of pain in the knee; it was so severe that I was confined to my bed for six weeks. I applied to surgeons, who made *incisions above and below the knee, which afforded me but very little relief,* but after some time I was able to walk with the assistance of crutches. On applying to Mr. Capern he made a few passes over the knee: *immediately after I found myself free from pain.* I then shouldered my crutches and walked to my shopmates, saying I should immediately resume my labour. *This took place on a Friday, and I went to work the Monday following. I have been from that day to this entirely free from pain."*

ROBERT HOLE, labourer, Harland's Court. "I suffered rheumatic pains in the arm and shoulder for *six weeks,* during which time I was *unable to work, or even use my arm at all. I had surgeon's attendance during that time,* who continually applied *blisters.* On the first time I saw Mr. Capern, I had *four blisters* up, but, after a few passes were made, I felt great relief. *This was on a Friday, and on the following Monday I was able to resume my daily labour. I am now as well as ever I was."*

WILLIAM MANLEY, mason, Hammett's Lane. "I had paralysis, and, although able to walk, I lost the entire use of my arm. *I felt relief from the first application,* and on each succeeding one I gained strength. I am now able to do my work, and am *quite recovered."*

JOHN NORRISH, shoemaker, Hammett's Lane, aged 17

years. "Whilst amusing myself with other youths, I was thrown into the river Lowman, from which I took a chill, which brought on severe rheumatism, and prevented me from labour. I was attended by surgeons here, who did not afford any relief. I obtained a recommendation to the *Exeter Hospital*, but such was the nature and severity of the complaint, that they *neither did or attempted to relieve me*; they gave me no medicine, or put me in the baths. After remaining for one month, I came out *pronounced as incurable*. I applied to Mr. Capern on a Friday; when he first made passes I felt relief, and, by their being repeated *the Sunday week following, the pains left me, and I am now quite recovered*. There was a consultation of six or seven surgeons at *Exeter*."

JOHN FERRIS, yeoman, Bolliam. "I had been afflicted with rheumatic pains for upwards of 20 years, so much so that I have been unable to do any work or cut my food at times; *nothing afforded me relief* until I applied to Mr. Capern, who made a few passes over me, and I was *immediately relieved*, and have never felt them since, but slightly on catching cold, when I apply to him, who relieves me immediately."

Mrs. TURNER, wife of Mr. John Turner, schoolmaster, aged 63. "I was troubled with rheumatic pains for *five years*. I could not walk about the house without crutches. After the passes had been made *five times, I was quite recovered*."

ELIZABETH ALLEN, wife of John Allen, Bickleigh. "I was nearly blind through weakness for four years. *For twelve months could not read or thread a needle without spectacles*; the sight of the left eye was *almost gone*. After a few applications to Mr. Capern, I was able to go home and read the smallest print and thread a needle without them, and my *sight is now perfectly restored*."

SUSAN HAWKINS, St. Andrew Street. "Confirmed *tic douloureux* of *seven years'* duration. For twelve months previous to applying to Mr. Capern, I was not able to perform any kind of labour, but after a few passes I was *quite recovered*."

"My son John, aged 14 years, took a chill in the eyes while in Ireland with his father (a soldier). Had the opinion of *several private as well as regimental surgeons* there; also applied to various surgeons here; and he has been in the *Exeter and Bristol Infirmaries*; but the case was pronounced

as *incurable*. A film was formed on both eyes; at times blind for three months together: such was the inflamed state of his eyes, that I could scarcely bear to look at him. After the repeated application of passes over him by Mr. Capern, he is quite restored; a little redness of the eye-lashes only appears occasionally."

JOHN ROWDEN, labourer, in the employ of William Talley, Esq. "I have had rheumatic pains for 13 years. On meeting Mr. Capern in the street, he observed me walking in so much pain, and offered to make a few passes over me, which he did. I immediately found relief, and was able to walk with more ease than I had done during the 13 years; since that a few more applications have been made and I am now *quite recovered*."

Mrs. DRANE, Bampton Street. "I had confirmed *tic douloureux* for upwards of five years so bad that I have been confined to my bed six months at a time with three surgeons attending me at once, and at last they pronounced me *incurable*. I have had a gallon of water, night and morning, thrown over my head, it being so excessively hot. I applied to Mr. Capern, and, after passes frequently made by him on me, I am now *quite recovered*."

Mrs. HOARE, Frog Street. "I had a violent tooth-ache for four years, occasioned by a fever. I could not rest night or day my gums were so painful; and I was so salivated that, at times, I could almost pull every one of them out. I was *quite restored* by three successive sets of passes being made on me by Mr. Capern."

Mrs. ZELLEY, Westex. "In consequence of a cold, I lost my voice for upwards of five weeks, but after a few passes being made on me I recovered it."

"My son was troubled with palpitation of the heart. He was ordered by the surgeons to be carried up and down the stairs, fearing the exertion might be too much for him. After a few passes the motion subsided and he is now *quite recovered*."

Mrs. GIBBINGS, St. Andrew Street. "Disease of the side. The surgeons stated it to be a tumor forming. I was in a very weak state for some time. After a few passes had been made I found great relief, and by a succession of them am now quite free from pain."

JOHN, son of the above, aged 3 years. "He being in such an enervated state, I applied to *surgeons both private and regimental at Plymouth, as well as surgeons here, who gave him up as ever being able to walk: but after continual application of passes on him he is now quite recovered and able to walk as well as any other child.*"

RICHARD THORNE, son of John Thorne, tinman, St. Andrew Street, aged 2½ years. "Confirmed dropsy. Medical gentlemen gave it as their opinion he would *never be restored*; and the last resource was to try mesmerism, which was accordingly done. After the first time the passes were made he was able to walk (which he never did before), and in five weeks he was *quite restored.*"

HARRIETT HARRIS, aged 27 years. "Paralysis brought on from hooping-cough. In extreme enervation and weakness, so much that I was unable to carry a light weight. I felt relief shortly after the passes had been made, and continued to improve, and am now *quite recovered.*"

LEALE WOOD, Westex, aged 14 years. "Disease of the brain, supposed to be water. Under medical attendance for some time, and had my head shaved, but found no relief: I had also fits. By continual repetition of the passes, I felt the disease quite different, and the fits are less violent."

MRS. MARTIN, Frog Street. "I was troubled with rheumatism for *three years*; almost obliged to use crutches. I felt relief immediately after the passes had been made, and after three sittings I was *quite recovered.*"

CHARLES SYDENHAM, Hammett's Lane. "I suffered from rheumatic pains for *several months*; but after the passes had been made a few times I was *quite recovered.*"

WILLIAM PARSONS, mason, Barrington Street. "A cart laden with quarry stones by accident passed over the inside of my foot, and cut the boot through, so that I could not stand. I was obliged to be carried home. Mr. Capern made a few passes over me, and I then felt relief; but after three times I was quite recovered."

MRS. QUICK, wife of John Quick, Townsend. "I suffered violent pain in my head and face for *twelve months*. I felt relief after the passes were first made, and after three or four times repeated I was *quite recovered.*"

"RICHARD, son of the above, suffered from rheumatic in feet, and subject to fits for three or four months. He could scarcely walk. From repeated application of the passes, in less than a month he was *quite recovered*."

The following is a copy of a letter received from Mr. Stevens, of Landside Farm, in the parish of Sampford Peverell, and read at the meeting:—

"Gentlemen,—This is to certify, after being a great sufferer upwards of *nine* months in my shoulder from the fall of a horse, I was persuaded to apply to Mr. Capern, Peter Street, Tiverton, to be mesmerised; and so I did, and within a fortnight I was *perfectly sound*."

"I remain, Gentlemen,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"THOMAS STEVENS.

"Sampford Peverell, Oct. 5th, 1848.

J. SNELL, *Chairman*."

VI. *Great benefit in a Spinal Affection.* By Miss LOVE.
Communicated to Dr. Elliotson.

34, Portland Square, Plymouth,
June 11th, 1849.

SIR,—In fulfilling my promise to send you some account of my experience in mesmerism, it may be necessary to give an outline of the course which had been followed in the earlier stages of my illness, previously to the commencement of that mode of treatment, from which, I believe, so much benefit has resulted.

At first the case was regarded as one of consumption, but was afterward considered to be a form of spinal disease.

Eight years of great suffering were spent in the trial of every available means, but without any relief being gained. At two different times, a rigorous system of cauterizing was resorted to, with no other effect than that of reducing the little remaining strength, while courses of tonics, with liberal diet, proved equally useless. Electricity was tried, with all the advantage that zeal and skill in its application could give, and everything that medical science could suggest seemed not merely to fail, but to leave the symptoms aggravated rather than otherwise. At various times, several of the medical men of our neighbourhood were consulted. They generally took a discouraging view of the case; and our own family surgeon, after the most assiduous efforts to relieve, seemed

to regard it as almost hopeless. Two years had been spent in simple rest, without any attempt except to keep up the general health, when galvanism was proposed, with many encouraging cases to induce a trial of its merits. Accounts too were reaching us, from time to time, of the wonderful effects produced by mesmerism, and several friends kindly interested themselves to procure so much of information on the subject as should enable us to form a judgment of its suitability to my own case.

We felt anxious to make some effort, and at length decided on a trial of galvanism, with the alternative of mesmerism, in case the former should fail. Just at this time some friends, whom I highly esteemed, but who shared the general distrust on the subject, hearing we were seriously thinking of trying mesmerism, sent me Charlotte Elizabeth's *Letters*, and other works written against it, and strongly recommended a consideration of the objections advanced. The charges brought in opposition were of a very serious character, and seeing that, were the alternative laid before me, I should have felt no hesitation in the choice between suffering through life, and restoration by any means that I had reason to believe were not in accordance with the will of God, I felt it to be my duty, so far as I had the means, to examine the evidence on both sides, earnestly desiring to be led to a right decision. Accordingly, I read most of the published works, and corresponded with several friends who had had opportunities for forming an opinion, and the result was that I felt no conscientious objections to its use; but, as many of my friends preferred galvanism, and I was myself very hopeful in reference to it, we determined to give it the first trial. So far from being beneficial, however, its application, although under the most favourable circumstances, appeared to be injurious, and at the end of three months its use was discontinued.

Several weeks were allowed for any excitement of the system, which might have been caused by galvanism, to pass off; and then the friend who had kindly consented to conduct the mesmeric treatment began his operations. He attended daily for a fortnight, with no other visible result than a slight traction of the eyelids; when, being called from home, he kindly procured a person to fill his place. At the end of another fortnight, the eyes closed under the operations, and a general feeling of repose seemed to pervade the whole system; but neither then, nor at any subsequent time, was the effect sufficiently strong to overcome consciousness. During the next few weeks the influence increased, accompanied with a slight degree of rigidity and attraction. The manipulations

were made for an hour daily, and were general rather than local.

After about six or seven weeks, we noticed a change in the complexion, the very palid hue giving place to a somewhat healthful appearance, the appetite and digestion improved, pain was lessened, and natural sleep became more refreshing; and at the end of two months, we observed a yielding of the lateral curvature. All these cheering symptoms continued until the treatment had been carried on for four months, and much progress had been made, when a temporary interruption was caused by the absence of the mesmerist. I felt the discomfort of the sudden cessation not a little at first, but after a short time found that, though I could not digest food so well as when regularly mesmerised, I still retained a large amount of benefit. We were unable to obtain a successful operator for the next three months.

At length a person was found who was able, and kindly willing, to give the necessary time and effort, and, the former mesmerist shortly after returning and wishing to resume the case, we gladly accepted the services of both, considering there was no objection to two operating at different parts of the day. With this double assistance we made good progress; my general health improved greatly, and pain, which had been for so many years my constant companion, now became only occasional; while the voice, which had failed for a long time, was greatly strengthened. The hip soon shewed symptoms of improvement, and the foot, which had been swollen to a very large size, became much smaller. Some of the medical gentlemen who saw me about this time expressed great surprise at the change that had taken place, and they recommended the application of mesmerism locally to the spine, considering it to be the seat of the complaint.

About the end of the year another interruption happened, in consequence of the illness of my kind and indefatigable operator: the first having again left the town.

In this case, however, my appetite and digestion continued good. Shortly after Mr. Hicks came to Plymouth to lecture, and, finding he intended to remain some months, we gladly secured his services. Mr. H. began to make passes down the spine, and soon produced a degree of rigidity which increased and assisted greatly in strengthening the muscles and straightening the spine. The contracted limb became considerably relaxed, and the other began to shew some effect from passes made over it.

As these symptoms advanced, the pain in all the muscles, of the right limb particularly, was intense, although not the

slightest mechanical force was used, nor were the passes even made with contact. By continuing this local mesmerism, rigidity and the power of motion were produced, the left limb always manifesting every change before the contracted one. Soon the spine had become so greatly strengthened as to allow of my raising myself on my elbows for a few moments. When we had reached this point Mr. Hicks left Plymouth, and I was removed into Cornwall in the hope that the change of air might prove a useful auxiliary. We were not at all disappointed in this expectation, and a friend most promptly undertook to continue the mesmeric treatment. In June I began to try a reclining posture for a short time daily, and as soon as my returning strength admitted, I was removed occasionally to a chair so constructed as to admit of the back having any inclination that was desired. Finding I continued rapidly to improve, the chair was placed on wheels and I was taken frequently out of doors.

It was a long time before I was able to sit erect without support, and as it caused pain we were very careful not to try the spine by the attempt. Sensation and the power of motion in the limbs had almost entirely returned, and yet I was now—nearly at the end of the second year of my recovery—quite unable to stand. As the autumn advanced, the air of Cornwall appeared too bleak, and I was advised to return into Devonshire.

After this the use of mesmerism was given up. During the winter the lungs appeared to be very delicate, and my efforts to walk were as much impeded by the difficulty of breathing which followed the smallest exertion, as by remaining muscular weakness.

On the return of warmer weather, I began to sponge daily with cold water, which contributed greatly to the increase of general vigour, and I soon became able to walk unassisted in the house. In July my chair was first dispensed with occasionally, and before the close of the season I had the great pleasure of uniting in several excursions in our neighbourhood. There is still an inequality of two inches or more in the length of the limbs, caused partly by remaining curvature in the spine, and partly by contraction of the right leg or rather displacement of the hip joint; but encouragement is held out that this last difficulty may in time be removed. It is now more than a year since the use of mesmerism was discontinued, and I am thankful to be able to say that I enjoy as good general health as I ever did. On several occasions I have walked as many as five or six miles in the day, not without considerable fatigue certainly, but without permanent inconvenience.

The case affords little or no testimony to the so called *higher* phenomena of mesmerism, but the slight degree in which I ever became affected may account for this, apart from this circumstance that, in accordance with my positive request, they were never sought. That there may be much of truth in them, and that their further investigation may throw light on some of the least ascertained subjects, I have no desire to dispute; but, as neither the satisfying of curiosity nor the determining of doubtful questions was the object in view, and might have considerably interfered with the end aimed at, I felt much obliged by the ready compliance with my wishes in this respect which my friends ever yielded.

To those who so unweariedly interested themselves on my behalf, I feel I owe a large debt of gratitude, but especially to Him from whom proceed alike the healing power and the blessing which alone can make any means effectual.

Hoping that this account is as detailed as you would wish, and expressing my readiness, at any time, to give what further information I may be able,

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

AGNES LOVE.

VII. *Mesmeric Cures.* By MR. WILLIAM HAZARD, 17, AVON Crescent, Hotwells, Bristol.

1. *Ophthalmia.*—May 26th, 1847. Rhoda Aldridge, 24, had been suffering under severe inflammation of the eyes for many years, and had tried almost everything, under several medical men, to obtain relief, with no avail; she came to me on the 20th of May. I began by making local passes, and in a few minutes saw she was susceptible of the mesmeric influence. I then acted upon her by gazing, and in ten minutes she was in the state of conscious coma, but had not the power to open her eyes. Continued the local passes for twenty minutes, awoke her with the transverse action: she said her eyes were less burning. I continued the same process four times a week for one month; and those who knew her before the mesmeric treatment were astonished at her improvement, from the inflamed, sore, and weeping eyes, to those of a healthy appearance. She also suffered from severe headaches, which were cured by the same power.

2. *Quinsey.*—May 28th, 1847. H. Aldridge, aged 26, husband of the last-named patient, a strong healthy man, five feet ten inches in height, broad chest, muscular, and well-proportioned. He had been working in the sun, had

taken off his coat, waistcoat, and neckcloth, and was in a high state of perspiration. Being called from the open air to do some work required in the factory, he went as he was. The transition from the sun to shade and a current of cool air checked the perspiration, and he soon felt his throat become dry and husky; at night he could not sleep, and the usual symptoms followed, high fever, difficulty of respiration, and painful deglutition. The ensuing day he was too ill to work; and in the evening, when he called upon me, he could scarcely speak. I commenced with passes over the part affected, and the effect was such that in twenty minutes he was asleep. I let him remain so, and continued for another twenty minutes making local passes. I then awoke him; he said he felt better and could swallow more easily. Mesmerised him twice a day for three days, and on the morning of the fourth he returned to work, perfectly cured.

3. *Intense Head-ache.*—June 8th. Isabella Ewers, aged 16, suffering from severe head-ache, called on me this day. I mesmerised her locally for twenty minutes, when she said it had entirely left and was quite easy.

4. *Scrofulous Sore Leg of Five Years duration.*—Oct. 6th. Mary Cornish, aged 13, had been afflicted for upwards of five years, with a scrofulous sore leg, of a most severe description. The wound extended from the ankle to within a hand's length of the knee. She had been under medical treatment the whole of the time, both in hospitals and dispensaries; had also tried the cold water system for eighteen months, with little or no relief. She was emaciated and could not walk. The pain arising from the wound at times prevented her sleeping. I mesmerised the diseased part daily, and in a week she felt a soothing sensation in the leg, and it was easier. On the 13th she fell into deep coma for half an hour. 16th, put to sleep by gazing, in five minutes. Through the whole treatment I never neglected mesmerising the leg at least twenty minutes. This evening she told me in her sleep-waking that nothing but what I was doing would cure her, but that it would take nine months. On the 20th, I took her with me from the Hotwells, where she lives, to the Mesmeric Society at Clifton. The leg was so much easier that already she could slowly walk this short distance. Her hand could be closed and opened, the mouth fixed and opened, and sleep induced, by the will; and her arms and legs made rigid by a few passes. Many times have I entered the little dwelling and found her in the greatest agony, the

leg inflamed from the ankle to the knee; but I have as invariably seen that inflammation subside in fifteen minutes with the passes, and the leg assume a healthy appearance. Her expression was, as my hand passed over the leg, "It's going, it's going," alluding to the painful heat and sensations. There has been an exfoliation of the tibia; and I now possess two pieces of the bone, full of dark spots, and perforated like lace work: one piece is two inches long, and five-eighths wide, coming to a point at each end; the other, one inch and a quarter by three-eighths. The wounds gave forth a thick discharge, with small pieces of white substance, like the curd of milk. Three times she had a large swelling in the groin, which her mother said appeared to be full of matter. These were dispersed by local mesmerism. I often had occasion to cleanse the wound and apply caustic; but this was done *without the slightest suffering to the patient, the limb being made insensible to pain by a few passes*, in the waking state. As the summer advanced, the wound rapidly healed; and by the middle of July, the time she had predicted, the cure was complete. Her health improved, her colour returned, and she is now able to be variously employed.

5. *Hypochondriasis*.—Dec. 23rd, 1847. James C., aged 20, a powerful-looking young man, of five feet eight inches, temperament sanguine-lymphatic, had despondency, flatulency, acid eructations, giddiness, palpitations, and dimness of sight, with black spots always floating before the eyes; he became unable to attend to business. I made passes from the top of the head to the epigastrium for half an hour, when he felt a little drowsy. I mesmerised him every evening.

Jan. 1st. Semi-coma was produced in fifteen minutes by gazing. He felt himself better, and the floating spots were less vivid, and his spirits better.

10th. Went to his business, and in the evening he said he felt himself quite a different being, more lively, and free from the giddy sensations. Coma was produced in eight minutes, and he slept half an hour.

25th. Felt himself entirely free from all his former distressing symptoms, in fact, quite cured.

Up to the present period, which is one year and four months, he has not had the slightest return.

6. *Severe Pains in the Hip and Thigh*.—March 14th, 1848. Mr. Wild, of Bower Ashton, near Bristol, had his leg fractured by the kick of a horse about fifteen months ago. The

fracture in due course of time healed, and he could with the aid of a stick resume his employment, but suffered most acutely when he retired to rest at night: not in the fractured limb, but in the hip and thigh. I mesmerised the part for twenty minutes, and did so twice a week for one month, when he said he could sleep well and the pain was gone.

7. *Cure of Dropsy and Nervous Head-aches, with decided Clairvoyance.*—Sept. 29th, 1848. Ann Bateman, aged 25, had been advised to try mesmerism, as from medical aid she found no relief; she had been a long time in the Infirmary, and, when I first saw her, she had no appetite, was inactive, had oppression of chest with cough, and general febrile excitement. I commenced with passes from the head to the epigastrium; in a few minutes she was susceptible. I mesmerised her by look, and in ten minutes she was in deep sleep; I mesmerised her afterwards locally for half an hour. She attended at my house four times a week for seven months, up to last April. She is now quite well.

She was phreno-mesmeric in the highest degree; the expression of the face beautifully coincided with the organ excited. Tune and Time were large, and, when excited, were difficult to subdue. She has an excellent voice, and would often sing spontaneously. Her arms and legs were easily rendered rigid, either by a few passes with the hand or with a magnet, and made flexible by reverse passes or changing the poles. Community of Taste, Touch, and Smell wonderfully acute; by traction, any limb could be acted upon, or her whole person brought in any direction required. I could induce coma by the will, crystals, the magnet, or by electricity. As a clairvoyant she had often given proofs, by describing what was passing in the adjoining room or elsewhere; and one fact above others I must not omit, incredible as it may appear, but which is supported by such an amount of testimony, both as regards time and place, that it cannot be doubted.

She resided next door to a lady whom I was attending for ophthalmia. After mesmerising the lady, I sent for her, and put her to sleep in an easy chair. The lady, Mrs. C., was the wife of the commander of a large ship, which had recently left Bristol with emigrants for New Orleans, on the 9th of November, 1848. Mrs. C. said, "Do ask Ann if she can tell you where Capt. C. is now." I excited Concentrativeness, Ideality, Individuality and Locality,* and then put

* Was all this at all necessary?—*Zoist.*

the questions. She said yes she could, but he was a great way from here; and she would tell me in five minutes. This was in the evening of the 17th of November. At the expiration of the five minutes she spoke. She said, "Ah! there's the ship; but oh! how dark; how she tumbles; I shall be sick, (at the same time she was in that kind of unsteady motion so usual to persons unaccustomed to the sea;) how the wind roars, and the sea so high and black; it's dreadful!" "Do you see Capt. C.?" "Yes, there he is on a high deck, calling to the men; now there's an Irish woman at the cabin door asking for medicine; others saying they would all be drowned; now there's Capt. C. leaning over a rail, saying, Go down my good women, there's no danger." Now she said, "There's such a noise down stairs; there's a man, he looks like a parson or a Quaker, with a great flat hat on, talking to the people; now he has put a large tin horn to his ear, and is lifting up his hand." This and much more was said by her. I let her remain calm after dispelling the influence of the excited organs, for ten minutes. She awoke, was unconscious of having spoken, and said she had had a nice sleep.

The test of the foregoing is as follows. Mr. C. wrote to her husband at New Orleans by the mail packet of the following month, December, wishing to know what kind of passage he had, and particularly requesting him to state the weather and general transactions of the night of the 17th of November, without stating her reason for so doing. Mrs. C. received an answer to this letter on the 6th of February, 1849; Capt. C. observing that the mail for January had unfortunately left before he could write. In this letter, which I have seen, he says, that on the morning of the 17th of December to that on the 18th it was blowing a gale of wind, but quite fair for them; they were to the westward of Madeira; that there was a very heavy sea rolling, and the ship laboured a great deal; the emigrants were very sick and frightened, and the most troublesome person was an itinerant *deaf* preacher, who was constantly exhorting them much to their annoyance; that he was on the poop deck the whole of the night; and never did the ship run such a distance as she did in the twenty-four hours of the 17th and 18th of November, 1848.

Mrs. C. has since seen her husband at Liverpool, and has told me that everything stated by the somnambulist had been fully corroborated by him.

8. *Great Relief and Strength imparted to the Thigh and Leg.*—Dec. 18th, 1848. James Chinnock, one of the Bristol dock men, had taken a chill in the right thigh and leg. His

sufferings were extreme; he was compelled to leave his work, and become an inmate in the Infirmary for eleven weeks. He had blisters applied over the whole surface of the thigh and leg, and went out, after enduring this torture, no better than when he went in. I mesmerised him by gazing, and in ten minutes he was in a calm sleep. He knew not what mesmerism was, and he knew not what nervousness was. He weighs at least thirteen stone. From the first sitting he felt relief, and daily improved in strength, and is now working on the docks, after having been mesmerised twenty-seven times.

9. *Pain in the Leg*.—December 20th, 1848. George Mills, aged 40, was employed in a timber yard; had a compound fracture of the leg by a piece of timber falling on it; was taken to the Infirmary and remained there until cured, but endured excruciating pains from the seat of fracture to the toes for months afterwards, and walked with crutches. He came to me to be mesmerised. I acted upon the limb by passes from the knee to the toes. In three or four days he began to find relief. On the sixth day, while locally mesmerising, I occasionally fixed my eyes on his for some minutes, and a peculiar kind of twinkling began, more marked as the operation proceeded; finally, the orbicular muscle contracted strongly several times, the globe of the eye gave a few rotatory movements, the eyelid fell, and he was in a deep sleep. Being regularly mesmerised he continued to gain strength, the pains gradually decreased, he has thrown away his crutches, and now recently the stick he walked with, and at the present time is following the occupation of a water carrier, free from his sufferings but with a slight limp—the natural effect of a broken leg.

10. *Nervous Headaches*.—January 5th, 1849. Mary Ann Mills, daughter of the last named patient, aged 19, had long been afflicted with this sad complaint; been under medical treatment a long time, and taken a great quantity of medicine. I mesmerised her three times a week. During the first three weeks she had the headache four times, the following three weeks twice, the next fortnight not at all,—two months having elapsed from the first application up to the 2nd of March. She never experienced the slightest sensation, nor was at all drowsy.

March 2nd. This evening I placed her in a chair on my insulated platform, and gave her the chain from the positive conductor of a powerful electrical machine. This was set in

motion, and I directed a brass pointed instrument to her head, forehead, and eyes. In three minutes from the commencement she was in a sound sleep, lost consciousness, and became phreno-mesmeric, and is so still. She is now cured of the nervous headaches, and her health greatly improved.

11. *Severe Headaches and other nervous affections.*—I will give the patient's own words.

"I suffered intensely from severe nervous headaches, and sometimes great mental debility and irritability; I very often felt quite unfit for my duties; my appetite was bad, and my nights most painfully restless. At the solicitation of my friend, I consented to try the effect of mesmerism, though, to be candid, I had very slight hopes of receiving any benefit from it, as medical aid had been tried in vain. At the first sitting my eyes closed and became fixed, as did also my mouth; a delightfully calm and soothing sensation stole over me; I retained consciousness, but was unable to speak until Mr. Hazard had demesmerised my mouth. The next evening I was mesmerised at the same hour, my eyes and mouth became fixed as before; and, Mr. H. continuing to mesmerise me, I soon passed into the state of sleep-waking. When demesmerised, I retained no memory of anything that had transpired, and was perfectly astonished when told I had been talking and giving Mr. H. directions as to what particular kind of passes he was to make in order to relieve a severe headache of which I complained. After a few evenings I was delighted to find that I had lost the feeling of oppression and intense pain at the top of the head, which had so much troubled me. My nights, however, were still sleepless, though not so distressingly restless as before; my appetite also remained bad. My mesmeriser, I was informed, used to make me promise ere I woke that I would eat more next day, and try to sleep better. Strange to say, these promises were always fulfilled; but I knew nothing of the cause of my increased appetite and comfortable rest until I was told.

"I had been mesmerised almost daily for about three weeks, and was altogether much better, when one afternoon I had invited a friend to tea, after which we had agreed to go to Mr. Hazard's in order that I might have my usual mesmerism: about six o'clock, however, I was seized with acute pains under the left breast, which continued till seven, when they became more violent, passing through to the back, and catching the breath, so that I was obliged to cry out with anguish. I was much alarmed and wished to send for a me-

dical man, but my friend, not waiting for my consent, went for Mr. Hazard, and he was speedily with me. Seeing me in great agony, (large drops of perspiration standing on my brow,) he immediately passed me into the magnetic sleep. In an hour I was demesmerised, and awoke *free from pain*; though feeling somewhat weak. During the trance I had been violently sick, but knew nothing about it when awoke, and was much amazed when shewn what I had thrown off my stomach. I had a charming night's rest, and awoke in the morning *quite well*. From this time I began to get stronger, and I am now able to eat heartily, take long walks, and sit alone for hours reading or writing; the nervous headaches have left me, and I hope, and believe, that ere long I shall be quite a different being to what I have recently been.

"Hotwells, May 22, 1849."

I was forewarned of the attack described; for, on Wednesday, March 21st, while in the mesmeric trance, she said, "I shall not be able to attend next Wednesday, I shall have a very severe attack; a crisis will then take place, and it will require much energy on your part to subdue it. Will you attend me?" I said it was a duty incumbent on me to do so. She said, "I am satisfied." A short time after I awoke her. She attended as usual every day. The ensuing Tuesday, in her sleep she again said, "I shall be very ill to-morrow night." I said, "I hope you will be mistaken." "No," she replied, "I am sure of it,—very ill." When I awoke her I asked if I should see her to-morrow (Wednesday); she said, "Certainly, why do you ask?" I made an evasive reply. As the evening of Wednesday the 28th came, I was positively certain all would happen as she had predicted. When her lady friend came for me I was ready, and arrived at the patient's house at a quarter after seven. She was in the state she has described. I asked a few questions, then put her into the mesmeric sleep. I made long passes from the head to the feet, breathed and placed my hand on the head and epigastrium, with passes down the spine, and asked how she felt. She answered, "Easier as regards the shooting pains, but I shall have a fit in a short time, and you must continue breathing and making passes over the region of the heart and at the top of the head." She soon had the fit, which was rather violent. I acted as had been directed for ten minutes, when, with a scream, the fit left her. She now desired me to give her some mesmerised water, but said that I must be careful not to let the glass touch her teeth, or she was sure she should bite and break it. I mesmerised a glass of water, put my

silk handkerchief round it, and gave her to drink. In less than two minutes violent eructations ensued, she said, "Now I am much easier," told me to give her more of the water as she had on the stomach that which must be thrown off, and the mesmerised water would do it. A basin was brought and the water administered, which instantly had the effect. She threw off a quantity of blood—dark and very thick. Directly afterwards she got up, walked into the next room in the dark and, from her chest of drawers, brought a clean white handkerchief and sat down, wiped her face, and said, "Now that is off my stomach I shall get better every day." I continued making passes with alternate breathings until a quarter past eight, when I demesmerised her. She felt rather weak, but was free from pain and ate her supper.

She displayed almost all the phenomena of mesmerism, viz.,—phreno-mesmerism beautifully displayed, community of taste, touch and smell, rigidity, catalepsy, traction; she was put to sleep by the will, the magnet, crystals, and electricity. The magnet had the same result on her as that mentioned in Case 7. As a clairvoyant few surpass her: she can read and write *in the dark*, with bandages folded four times over her eyes, and cannot bear the light of a fire or candle.

She is still under mesmeric treatment, and continues to gain health and strength.

EXPERIMENTS WITH CRYSTALS, THE MAGNET, AND ELECTRICITY.

Crystals.—In a jar I place and cover with water a large crystal of carbonate of lime, crystallized in double hexatiedral pyramids: a cover is fitted to the top, with a curved piece of brass wire, the size of a stair rod, passing through it, and the bottom touching the crystal. On the main rod, a little below the cover, is adjusted another piece of brass rod turned at right angles, so that three points are immersed in the water. To that part of the main rod above the cover, brass chains are attached, and passed from the apparatus to the patient's hands; cases 7, 9, 10, and 11 were invariably sent to sleep in a few minutes, when put in connection with it. A young gentleman, seeing the action on many of my patients, took one of the brass handles connected with the chain without my knowledge. He called me, and said he could not let it go, and I saw his hand had become perfectly rigid; I blew on it as I would to dispel the mesmeric action, when it became flexible. I have used this in numerous instances with satisfactory results.

The Magnet.—A rather powerful magnet is suspended from

a brass rod, and a small iron chain is attached to the bar; the chain, being held in the patient's hand, produces rigidity and coma. The demesmerising passes dispel these effects.

Electricity.—I place a chair upon an insulated platform, and, a chain from the positive conductor of my powerful electrical machine being held in the hand of many of my patients and of others not under mesmeric treatment, coma is produced. When the chain is held, I set the machine in motion; then with a curved pointed brass instrument I extract the fluid from the head, forehead, and eyes, holding the point about four inches from the person; the effect is a delightful cool soothing sensation. I have tried its effect so often, that in seven cases out of ten I have induced coma, and in many in less than three minutes. A person only a few days ago, who had never seen an apparatus of the kind, was in a deep unconscious coma in four minutes. The air contiguous to an electrified point, being in a similar state of electricity by contact, repels and is repelled by the point; it consequently flies off, when another portion of air immediately fills the vacancy; the constant succession of the repulsion gives rise to the idea of the cool air being blown from the point.

VIII. *Case of Scrofula much alleviated.* By the Rev. E. C. TOPHAM, Combe Down, near Bath. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Primum, igitur, non artium modo, sed omnium omnino humanarum rerum dignitatem atque præstantiam ex fine, ad quem earum quæque dirigitur, pendi ac spectari arbitror oportere: ut, quanto cujusque finis præstantior ac divinior est, tanto ipsa cæteris excellere judicetur."—*Muretus.*

FRANCIS BARROW was the son of John and Susannah Barrow of the village of Monkton Combe, near Bath. He had enjoyed very good health up to the beginning of April, 1845, when he was seized with a pain in his knee accompanied with general debility. In consequence of this, he became for a short time an in-door patient of the Bath Casualty Hospital. His parents attributed his illness to bathing in the previous summer when in a state of profuse perspiration. In addition to his other ailments, a swelling in the groin made its appearance and ultimately burst, discharging upwards of a pint of thick, unctuous, cream-like matter, but which afterwards changed to a thin, watery flux. In the following June, he became again an in-door patient of the same hospital for three months. His knee, during this period, was punctured, and a copious discharge of a bloody flux or corruption followed.

After this he was attended by the surgeon of the Union, and continued to be so to the day of his death. In May, 1847, his foot was affected in the same manner as the groin, and there was a similar discharge. His case—one of decided scrofula—was considered to be perfectly hopeless, and the only medicines he took were an aperient, or tonic, when necessary. His appearance was that of one worn down to the brink of the grave by disease: his only mode of locomotion was shoving himself along the floor of the room.

Such was the condition of the poor sufferer when I first saw him, in the early part of October, 1847. In the latter part of the previous September, I had undertaken the spiritual charge of a portion of the parish of Monkton Combe, and, although I had almost made up my mind not to undertake a case of mesmerism myself—in consequence of the strong prejudice which still exists to a great extent against it, and for fear such prejudice might injure me as a minister amongst my little flock, yet, when I beheld this poor fellow in the deplorable condition I have described, I could not bear the idea of visiting him ministerially only, whilst conscious of my power to relieve his temporal wants, and therefore, without hesitation, commenced the mesmeric process.

Although I have witnessed numerous cases of mesmerism—and especially the highly interesting one of Horner reported in *The Zoist*, Vol. V., p. 123, and indeed have had two or three other cases of my own, yet the experienced practitioner will doubtless detect some ignorance of the subject displayed in the following recital. At the very outset, a case of such long standing must be acknowledged, on all hands, to be a most difficult one to deal with. However, I determined so to husband my time as to devote *one hour* each day to my patient, notwithstanding he was living at a distance of two tedious miles from my own abode.

At the end of a week, although there were no apparent approaches towards mesmeric sleep, still he acknowledged that he felt himself stronger and occasionally drowsy, especially for some time after I had left him. It is a striking fact that, from the first day of my attempting to mesmerise him, his hands were *cold, clammy, and wet* when I commenced the *passes*; but always *warm, dry, and of the same temperature* as my own long before the hour had expired. This was equally the case even when I had not come into actual contact with him. In a few days more his spirits revived wonderfully, and he was enabled to sit upon a chair with his foot resting upon a stool, chatting with all the vivacity and cheerfulness of an invalid conscious of returning health. These symptoms

were highly encouraging; but I had taxed my powers beyond my strength, and was obliged to desist from sheer exhaustion. For two days his sister supplied my place, but without his experiencing the after drowsiness, &c. After this short intermission I resumed my labours, restricting them to about half an hour at each *séance*. In a day or two I found, from a sort of nodding of the head and gentle starting of the frame, that I was gradually gaining power over him. Moreover, he himself became conscious of the influence, and always told me when he felt it the most,—his account invariably coinciding with my own feelings and strength at the time. A change also took place in the effusion from his body. That which had hitherto been a thin, limpid running, now became a thick, yellow, unctious matter,—a change which his medical adviser pronounced to be for the better. The drowsiness, I have already mentioned, was no longer confined to a few hours after my exertions, but continued throughout the day and the whole of the following morning. His sleep during the night, before my seeing him, had never exceeded *two or three* hours. His father, who had often anxiously watched his restless nights, now told me, with tears of gratitude and joy, that his son's sleep during the night was sound, deep, and unbroken.

About three weeks from the time of my first visit, his eyelids slowly closed with a tremulous, quivering motion, and he dropped into a quiet sleep in 25 minutes. His sleep was not very profound, since he was conscious of all that passed and could recall the conversation which had occurred during his sleep. It will be seen in the sequel that this consciousness never forsook him. He described the sensation as most soothing, delightful, and refreshing; but loud conversation broke in upon his pleasing slumber, and his otherwise placid and happy countenance contracted into a frown. He could always hear me or any other person speaking to him, but could not return an answer, his eyes and his tongue being spell-bound and hermetically sealed. The first time he slept an hour and a quarter, and awoke with a smile playing upon his countenance. Three days from this time he went off into coma in five minutes, and in ten days the time was gradually diminished to one minute and sometimes even less than that. Finding his strength increase wonderfully, he was allowed, with the approval of his medical man, two glasses of port wine one day, a pint of porter the next, and so on in rotation. His sleep varied from one hour to two, and was always most pleasant; so much so that he awoke sometimes whilst attempting to sing.

He had now been about a month under my treatment,

and my success had exceeded my most sanguine expectations. The whole family were astonished at the change wrought in him, and all thought him gradually advancing towards a recovery. He could go up and down the stairs with little or no fatigue, slept soundly during the night and sometimes in the day in addition to the mesmeric sleep, his wounds also assumed a more healthy appearance. Ignorant of the nature of the disease under which he laboured, I cannot say whether the profuse perspiration which he now experienced during the night was a favourable symptom or not; but, during the day, his skin wore a more natural hue and was not so moist on the surface, cold, nor clammy as heretofore: in fact, his countenance wore a much more healthy and congenial aspect, and had in a great measure lost that sunk and careworn look and livid hue which was so striking when first I saw him. All this, too, when, from other engagements, I could sometimes only devote a quarter of an hour to him each day,—my general practice being to continue the process a full half hour each day after sleep had been induced.

A protuberance in the neck, caused, he said, by taking cold whilst watching the hay-making from his window in the summer, burst a fortnight ago; and, *contrary to all his previous experience*, the wound had healed up again in a few days.

His sisters who resided at some little distance, and consequently had not seen him since mesmerism had been tried, were astonished at his improved condition. As they had seen nothing of the powers of that wonderful agent, I tried one or two experiments for the first time,—his restoration to health being my only motive for devoting so much of my time to him. He was insensible to pain, so far as could be ascertained by violent pinching, &c. I put sugar in my mouth without the possibility of his seeing me had he been awake, and, as soon as I tasted the sweet, there was a movement of his mouth and action of the salivary glands, followed by deglutition corresponding with my own,—his face gradually brightening up into a smile as if really enjoying the sweet. I then sipped a little vinegar. Gradually his brows contracted, until at length his visage assumed that form which is usual after something extremely nauseous or disagreeable has come across the palate. This was followed by a laugh, as if at the idea of a trick having been played him; a little more sugar, however, taken for my own sake as well as his, gradually restored him to a happy smile.

At this period his medical attendant expressed his astonishment at the improved condition of Barrow, and pronounced

“a change to have latterly taken place in him very much for the better; that his wounds were somewhat improved, but that changes of that kind would take place in various stages of the disease when there was indeed no hope for an ultimate recovery; that the complaint was too deeply rooted in his system to hope for that.” He ordered him acid tonics, as I understood from Mrs. Barrow.

On the 19th of November, a clerical friend accompanied me, and as usual, upon such occasions, I proceeded to show him a few experiments. I mesmerised two sovereigns for a minute or so, and placed one in each of my patient's hands, desiring him to hold them. In two minutes he was asleep, and then clutched the gold most firmly so that no one could rescue them from his rigidly clenched hands. Silver, I found afterwards, produced the same effect. I opened his mouth, and by passes partly fixed his lower jaw. I drank water, &c., and, as before stated, there was a corresponding deglutition on his part. At this time his sleep was deeper, so that he could not hear the carts as they rumbled close past the house. His countenance had become much altered—especially the lips. At the outset, they were *extremely thick and swollen* as well as drawn in, differently from those of any person I had ever seen: for some time past, they have become more natural and *much thinner*. This change struck me very forcibly. His hands are not so cold by far as heretofore; his eyelids have lost that tremulous motion which existed in the first stage of the mesmeric sleep.

Some friends, who had no faith in the mesmeric power, accompanied me on the 24th of November, when I rendered his arm rigid as a bar of iron; at their request I awoke him, and put him to sleep again immediately: they were perfectly convinced of the truth of mesmerism. I found afterwards that I could produce rigidity in the limbs whilst he was awake. On the 27th of Nov., before proceeding to mesmerise him, his hands were of a natural warmth and dryness, although he had, contrary to his usual custom, been sitting up stairs in the cold without a fire.

On the 2nd of Dec., I had put him to sleep as usual in a minute or two, and deepened the sleep about a quarter of an hour, when suddenly his countenance changed; there was a heaving of the chest and contortion of the features, as if in violent agony. I instantly redoubled my efforts, making passes over the region of the heart and head with all the energy I could muster. In half a minute he lay as calm and placid as usual; but not before he had with difficulty given utterance to some few words: the *only time he ever spoke*

when in the mesmeric sleep. I heard a door open and shut down below, immediately before his convulsive movements commenced, but nothing more. He slept an hour and a quarter, and when he awoke, said that he had not slept so well in consequence of his sisters crying, and that he was afraid his brother-in-law (then in the hospital at Bath) was dead. This was really the case; his mother and sister having, at the moment he was so violently agitated, returned from Bath.

On the 6th of Dec., he was very much troubled with sickness and a head-ache, which the mesmeric sleep *entirely removed*. On the 8th, I could not conveniently attend him; consequently the ensuing night he lay awake three hours, and slept ill: this occurred more than once.

His sister, at my request, mesmerised a sovereign, and during her brother's sleep placed it in one of his hands, whilst he held in the other hand another sovereign which had been mesmerised by me. I could not by manual force, or breathing upon the hand which held the sovereign she had mesmerised, obtain it; neither could she, by similar means, obtain that which I had mesmerised: but the latter opened almost immediately when I breathed upon it, as well as the former when she did the like. Unknown to him, I desired his sister to pinch me, which *he* evidently felt very acutely.

I urged him in strong terms to speak to me during the mesmeric sleep; but he could not do so, though conscious of my wish, and anxious to gratify it. When he awoke, he said the exertion he had made to comply with my request disturbed his sleep very much. The communication of taste I found had now ceased, and he had also become sensible to pain; a change I could not comprehend, since he was still as much as ever under my power, so far as rigidity, &c., were concerned.

On the 19th of Dec., I sat by him, and, without contact, willed him to sleep in the usual time. The following day, I sat down in the corner of his bed-room, and again used simple volition. He laughed at me the while, but slept in four minutes, more than double the usual time.

It should be observed, that I could not affect him in the least when his mind was kept upon the *qui vive* in close conversation with me. I now tried, by simple volition, to put him to sleep from Bath; but his sister told me that the conversation was kept up more than usual about the time I had fixed, and no effects were produced.

On the ensuing evening, his sister contrived to get him into his bed-room about 8 o'clock,—the time I had named,—and at quarter past he fell asleep, and slept half an hour.

The same course was pursued the following evening, accompanied by a similar result. He described the sleep to me as different from natural sleep, and precisely the same as that which he experienced when I was present.

On the 24th of Dec., I was confined to the house with a violent attack of influenza. The effect upon my poor patient was very extraordinary. He nearly fainted, and became weak and exhausted; much more than he would have done had he been suddenly deprived of some strong and nourishing food. His parents in great distress sent to me to know what was to be done; I advised his sister, who had some little experience in the art,* to mesmerise him twice a day, until I was strong enough to resume my labours. She did so until the 29th of Jan., 1848; the sleep after each *séance* averaging during that period from half to three-quarters of an hour.

On the 6th of Jan., 1848, I was enabled to see my patient, when his father said to me, "It's answered very well, Sir; Frank has gone to sleep every night at 8 o'clock!" This surprised me, as I had not tried to affect him. Upon questioning him, I found that, under the impression I was about to mesmerise him from Bath, he had retired to his room every night a little about 8 o'clock with a candle, which he kept burning. That he invariably fixed his eyes upon some one object, and gradually a mist appeared to fill the room, until all objects became indistinct: at last he could not even see the candle, and he then dropped into a gentle sleep—I suppose a sort of Braidism or hypnotism.†

On the 29th of Jan., I thought myself strong enough to take my patient under my own charge again, and consequently mesmerised him about half an hour each day for a week; although he slept in two or three minutes, it was very exhausting to me, and not attended with my former success, as he never slept longer than three-quarters of an hour, and rarely

* On the 13th Nov., 1847, her husband, James Griffin, returned from a visit to his friends to my parish in a most deplorable condition. He was in the last stage of consumption, dropsical,—in fact, the victim of a complication of diseases. I never saw a more likely subject for mesmerism, and requested his wife to try if she could affect him. Under my superintendence, she mesmerised him *twice* a day for ten days, and he slept upon an average *two* hours after each *séance*! His sleep during the night, before confined to two or three hours, became sound, and his appetite increased wonderfully. On the eleventh day he was removed into the hospital in Bath by order of his surgeon, and died the following day. His widow is fully convinced that the process prolonged her husband's life some few days, that his pain was much alleviated, and his last days rendered much more comfortable than any he had experienced for months before.

† From my candidly stating to an experienced physician this fact, so detrimental to what would have been the most astonishing feature in the case, he could not but acknowledge his full and implicit credence to the whole narrative.*

* Mere imagination explains this. See No. IX., p. 47.—*Zoist*.

less than that period. Upon one of these days, when I had just completed my allotted time, and left him in a deep sleep, his medical adviser called. Not wishing to disturb his slumbers, nor to renew my exertions, I determined not to awake him. The surgeon requested to see him: he did so; felt my patient's pulse, and entered into a description of the hopeless condition of the poor boy, stating that there was no chance whatever of his recovery; that latterly he had become much worse, and that ultimately, in all probability, he would go off in a decline. Had the sleep been natural, he would not have heard this statement, but he distinctly remembered the whole of the conversation when he awoke.

At the end of the week, I felt that I had resumed my labours too soon, and a second attack of the influenza followed, which hung upon me for some weeks. My patient's brother-in-law tried to mesmerise him, but with little or no effect; moreover, the disease had even, when I last mesmerised him, preyed upon the bone, and the effluvia in consequence became quite overpowering; occasionally afterwards I relieved him from pain and weariness, by putting him to sleep for twenty minutes or half an hour during his now fast sinking state. He lingered until the 29th of March following, when he quietly turned upon his pillow, and died without a struggle.

I cannot close this statement without bearing testimony to the amiable disposition and fervent piety of my highly interesting patient. The solemn admonitions and warnings which he gave to his parents and friends around him, will never be forgotten. Upon one occasion, during the time I was unwell, his father observed to him, "We all think, Frank, if Mr. Topham had not been ill, you would have recovered." He replied, "I think I should, father, but it is God's will; had He intended me to be well, He would not have made Mr. Topham ill."

We beg to add our united testimony to the correctness of the foregoing statement; Monkton Combe, Jan. 24th, 1849.

John Barrow.

Susanna Barrow.

The foregoing statement would be a very unsatisfactory one to adduce as a *proof* of the wonderful powers of mesmerism, as there is much in it which one disposed to carp and cavil might attribute to natural causes. It is for no such object I have consented to its being brought before the public; but simply because there are features in the case

somewhat unusual, and which, therefore, will be interesting to those for whom it is intended; viz., the readers of *The Zoist*.

EDWARD C. TOPHAM.

Prior-Park Buildings, Bath.

MESMERISM IN THE REST OF ENGLAND.

- IX. *The removal of Dreadful Pain of long standing from the Eyes of a Parishioner.* By the Rev. JOS. CAUTLEY, Curate of Thorney, Cambridgeshire. Communicated to Dr. Elliotson.

June 11, 1849.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to send you the following case of immediate and permanent relief by the employment of mesmerism. I had been attending, ministerially a man and his wife, named Harrison; both were very ill. The subject of this note is the husband, the wife is since dead. Harrison is a labouring man, of good character, aged about 58. He has been for the last two or three years subject to almost incessant pain in his eyes. So great was his suffering, his wife has told me, that, when he returned from his work, he would throw his hat across the house, and rush to the table to place his arms upon it for the support of his head. When I began to visit the house he was complaining very much of his eyes. His wife said neither of them could get any sleep, he was so restless from the pain. Though I have used mesmerism with almost unfailing success amongst my friends and acquaintances for the relief of pain, I have been very cautious in introducing it amongst the cottagers, lest they should regard it superstitiously—to the injury of my ministerial usefulness. However, one day in March, on entering Harrison's cottage, I saw the poor man stretched upon chairs, covered over with a shawl, and his wife told me he was nearly mad with pain. I asked him to sit up. He did so. His suffering was at once apparent; he could not bear the light, nor open his eyes, and described the pain as piercing through to the brain. I saw it was useless to read to him whilst his attention was absorbed by his own agony; at the same time a strong feeling came across my mind, that, if mesmerism possessed the wonderful power I had been led to suppose, and which I had to some extent experienced, I was not justified in letting the poor man suffer without attempting to relieve him. I would not, however, tell the man or his family what I proposed to

do, but told the man I would hold my hand to one of his eyes, and see whether the warmth of my hand would ease the pain. I did so; occasionally drawing my hand down the face to the chin and throwing off the pass. I also made tractive passes from the eye. *In ten minutes* he told me the pain was nearly gone from that eye, but seemed to have gone more to the head. This shewed me the cause of the pain was influenced by the passes. Thus encouraged, I commenced with both hands, one to each eye, just as I had been doing to the one eye. In little more than ten minutes he told me all his pain was gone from his eyes, but he had considerable pain in the head. I then commenced upon the head: in less than half an hour from the commencement of the passes to the eye, he was free from pain both in his eyes and head. The next day when I called, before I could utter my anxious enquiry, whether the pain kept off, his wife exclaimed, "Oh, what a blessing it is, Sir, to have such a kind friend as you. Why, Sir, we slept for five hours last night, the first time we have had a good night for months." As Harrison complained of pain in his head, I put him into the mesmeric sleep, and he woke refreshed and free from pain. I saw him a few days ago—and though he is a worn out man, and cannot live, I should think, many months, as he has no appetite and is daily becoming weaker, yet he has continued free from that dreadful agony in his eyes, which there is every probability would have attended him to his grave. He has had no *return of the pain*, and it is now nearly three months since it was removed. It was your noble and courageous advocacy of mesmerism, dear Dr. Elliotson, which induced me to examine it for myself; and being convinced of its truth and of its great power as a curative agent, I dare to advocate it and to employ it. I have not met with one opponent to mesmerism who has examined into it. I meet with hundreds who vent their childish censures, which have no other basis than their own imaginations.

I instruct any body in the employment of this natural power, who I believe to be well disposed and earnest to use it for good. I discourage every other employment of a power so great, and in improper hands fraught with possible evil.

I send this as my first contribution to *The Zoist*, and will only add that, in all directions around me, prejudices are giving way and opponents are becoming advocates.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours sincerely and gratefully,

JOS. CAUTLEY.

X. *Cure of Palpitation of the Heart.* By a beneficed Clergyman of the Church of England. Communicated to Dr. Elliotson.

— Vicarage, Surrey, 12th June, 1849.

My dear Sir,—I have long laboured under the sense of a heavy obligation due to those who, with yourself, seek to establish a truth much assailed, and shall feel relieved of a great weight, if you will permit a humble individual like myself to be heard in favour of that mighty fact—vital or zoistic magnetism. It is with deep shame that I call to mind the (for a time) unsuccessful attempt of one of the brightest ornaments of the profession to which I belong, to induce me to lay aside the prejudice of intense ignorance, and seek to become enlightened upon a subject which has been investigated by minds of the highest order, and pronounced to be one of the greatest blessings which a God of mercy and love has bestowed upon his suffering people. I have, indeed, reason to be thankful that at last the scales fell from my eyes, and that the result of a painstaking enquiry was the establishment of that truth of which you have always shewn yourself the undaunted and consistent champion.

Having been once satisfied of a *fact* which for years I had ridiculed as a miserable *fiction*, it will hardly surprise you to be told that I sought to benefit my fellow creatures by carrying it out. I will not weary you with my alternations of success and failure. Many are the cases in which I have succeeded beyond my fondest hopes, and in many, I am bound to state, I have met with failure and disappointment.

Amongst the former is the following case of *palpitation of the heart*. I have suppressed the names by desire of the parties concerned; but permission has been given me to afford every information in my power, in private, to those who may desire it.

On the 14th of last December, I received a letter of which the following is a copy,—

“ — Parsonage.

Dear Sir,—You will, I trust, pardon the liberty that I—a stranger—take in addressing you, but the circumstances of the case will, I trust, excuse me.

“As you are, I believe, aware, my beloved father—the Rev. —, has been suffering for some months past. We were, however, rejoicing in perceiving such a decided amendment in him last week, as to give us every assurance of his restoration; but this happiness was but transitory, for on Saturday night last he was attacked far more violently and

alarmingly than before. Medical advice has done but little in alleviating his excruciating agony, and he himself appears to think that the only hope of giving him temporary relief is in the skill the Almighty has bestowed upon you. Will it then be asking too much, to beg that you will come to us and use it for a Christian brother? We shall indeed esteem it a peculiar and never-to-be-forgotten favour, your doing so *at your earliest convenience*, as each moment is precious.

"Pray pardon us, dear Sir, this unreasonable request, and allow me to subscribe myself,

"Yours truly,
* * * *

"To the Rev. ————,
"——— Vicarage."

The afternoon of the same day saw me at the bed-side of my patient. His pulse, tested by a medical gentlemen present, was 120, and I found him unable to move in his bed without *intense suffering*; his breathing was short and rapid, and I must confess that, for the moment, I looked upon the case as hopeless,—so indeed did his medical attendants. As, however, the Rev. Mr. ——— earnestly desired to be mesmerised, I lost no time, and he fell into the sleep-waking state in a very few minutes; his pulse rapidly fell to 80, and his breathing became regular. By the usual tractive passes I drew him to an upright position in his bed, and you will easily imagine the intense astonishment of his family and friends, when they saw the body of the patient follow the hand of the mesmeriser with as much readiness as the needle follows the magnet; and further, his countenance, which had hitherto been agonized, became perfectly calm and tranquil. To the question, "Do you suffer any pain?" he replied instantly, "None whatever; it is quite gone."

That night I slept at the house of my patient, and the following morning, shortly after breakfast, was hastily summoned to his bed-side, as he had announced to his friends his conviction that he had but a very short time to live.

Under the impression that some great change was taking place in him, which was mistaken for the approach of death, and yet not willing to urge hastily a repetition of the preceding evening's treatment, I proceeded (you will, I doubt not, remember the occasion) to obtain your valuable opinion and advice. On this I acted, and the result was, that the manipulations were again resorted to, and with the same or even more beneficial effects. The patient supposed to be almost at his last gasp, fell as before into a most refreshing sleep.

I was satisfied, upon his awaking, that we had good cause to hope that mesmerism would be blessed as the instrument of his restoration to health; *and so it proved.* His amendment was steady and visible to his friends, and on the 28th of the same month I received the following most gratifying and welcome intelligence:—

“My dear Sir,—You will I fear consider me very remiss in not fulfilling my promise of writing to you ere this, but when I assure you that my apparent negligence arose from a servant’s carelessness in omitting to post a letter I despatched to you on Saturday, you will, I trust, excuse me. I am, however, happy in having the additional favourable intelligence of some days to give you. As regards my dear father’s progression, he appears to be gaining ground steadily, although he has exerted himself much in seeing several of his poor people. We do indeed owe you a large and lasting debt of gratitude, for we can distinctly trace his amendment to the time when you first operated upon him, when indeed he appeared to us as past reasonable hope.

“Yours most truly,

“* * *

“To the Rev. ———,

“—— Vicarage.”

Thus in little more than a fortnight, having been mesmerised six times in all, was this great sufferer permitted to derive a cure from that much-reviled “therapeutic agent,” mesmerism.

It has been my privilege within these few days to receive and welcome my dear friend and fellow-labourer in the Lord’s vineyard at my own residence, and to hear this faithful and devoted servant of God put forth with his usual power and energy from my own pulpit the truth in all its fulness.

I am, my dear Sir, with much respect,

Yours very faithfully,

A beneficed Clergyman of the Church of England.
To J. Elliotson, Esq., M.D., &c., &c.

XI. *Cure of Blindness.* By Miss WALLACE.

ALEXANDER MASON, aged 8, was brought to me Dec. 5, 1846, by his mother—Mrs. Child, the wife of a tailor residing in Curtain Road. She stated that his eyes did not, according to her nurse, appear at all diseased at his birth, but that

some hours after, observing he did not open them, she raised the lids. Inflammation ensued, followed by a discharge of matter.

Three weeks after her confinement, she took the child to Mr. Alexander, the oculist in Cork Street. After examination, father and son agreed that the sight of the right eye was *entirely lost*, but that the other might be materially improved, and that this was the utmost that could be expected; adding, that even of this Mrs. C. should feel very thankful. A course of treatment under the Messrs. Alexander was then commenced, and it was ascertained that the child could distinguish colours, &c., when held *quite close* to the left eye. Finding the improvement not progressive, Mrs. C. took her son to various hospitals and medical practitioners without any great results, and *all* were of opinion that one eye was gone beyond redemption. The child was finally received into the Ophthalmic Hospital, King William Street, Strand, where he underwent the most horrible torments termed surgical operations, and the gentlemen by whom they were performed were doubtless of the opinion of that portion of medical practitioners who, like Dr. Copland, consider pain a wise provision of nature and beneficial accompaniment of their practice, for no means were taken to render the unhappy child insensible to the horrors of being strapped down to a table surrounded by a number of students, and where he felt as if his eyes were turned out on his cheeks and a burning liquid poured into the sockets. This operation was repeated different times: he was then put to bed, his eyes bandaged up, the nostrils being open for respiration. After the lapse, I think, of three months, one of the nurses told his mother that she believed the sight was totally destroyed, but if it was not it would be, and cautioned her to remove him without compromising her, as she gave the advice from motives of humanity at the risk of losing her place. The child was removed and found to be "stone blind." After a time, partial sight of the left eye was recovered, so that if a bright object was held *close* it could be dimly distinguished and one colour known from another.

Mrs. Child having heard from her brother-in-law, who lived servant with us, of the various cures he had seen me perform on blind persons, brought her over to me on the 5th of December, 1846. He was led into the room, the front of his cap being broken as he had knocked his head against a lamp-post or tree.

After my mesmerising him a few minutes he went into the mesmeric sleep, and was found to be insensible to the usual

tests of pricking with a pin, tickling, &c. I rendered his arm rigid, and it remained extended during about an hour and a half. At the end of that time I roused him, when he exclaimed that he saw! I desired him to describe what he saw. He said he saw his uncle with his hands in his pockets, described the dress of a lady present, said her mitts were the colour of her hands (they were flesh coloured). Several things were shewn him, of which he did not know the names. A silver fork he called a spoon, &c. A large bible lay on the table, and to the astonishment of all he named most of the letters in the holy bible.

I found from his mother that at the infant school at Shore-ditch he had learned some of the letters by feeling, as the blind are taught.

A sensation of awe and wonder pervaded all present: his mother burst into tears, and expressed the most heartfelt thankfulness to God for this apparent miracle.

The next morning I took the child to Dr. Elliotson. During the drive, I asked if he could distinguish any objects in the shop windows, but he could see nothing but what he called a white board in a well, (it was a round tin bathing tub.) I think that Dr. Elliotson said there was a cataract of one eye and opacity of the cornea in the other.

Before I mesmerised him at Dr. Elliotson's house, he could not distinguish distant objects, and only saw those held close to his eyes. When roused, he described Dr. E.'s large dog without knowing at first what it was, and on returning to Kensington I found he could distinguish everything in the shop windows, describe all the carriages that passed, whether there were figures on them, colour of the horses, &c., &c. From this time forward his sight continued gradually to improve, and in a few days he described the impression on a seal as a head, but not a head like ours—a stag's head, and saw the letters on the inside of a watch.

He exhibited many curious mesmeric phenomena,—prevision as to the periods at which he would be able to see certain things—attacks of illness to which he would be subject, &c. One very singular *fact* I cannot avoid mentioning. He and Mary Bower, the girl whose cure of a scalded arm and bad fall are mentioned among my cases in *The Zoist* of January, 1847, would both tell me either *sleeping or waking, together or separate*, the card out of three that I mesmerised by *thought only*, and this experiment they often repeated successfully without one failure through the whole pack of cards. With the usual uncertainty of clairvoyance some days they could not succeed at all.

Being anxious to know what Mr. Alexander would say to the cure effected, I took the boy to his house, and found he recollected him. On my telling him his sight was restored, he looked at his eyes, and said he could not see much with the right eye,—the one with which he did see and which others pronounced incurably blind. Alick abruptly declared he saw much better with that eye than the other; which fact he announced very soon after his sight was restored. Mr. A. then enquired by what means sight had been restored. When I replied by mesmerism, he immediately denounced *The Zoist* as an atheistical* publication which he never read, and said mesmerism was a d——d humbug, and if it was anything it came from the devil; pronounced all the reports of Dr. Esdaile's cases as imposition, &c. &c. When I enquired by what agency he supposed Alick's sight had been restored after only an hour and half's mesmeric sleep, he replied "by an effort of nature."

I have not heard anything of Alick since about six months after the cure was effected. I then heard his sight continued to improve, and that he was to learn the watch-making business from an uncle.

This is the case referred to in the *Family Herald*, in the same article in which the cure by the lady of the Archbishop of Dublin is noticed, in which case I took a special interest, having heard the commencement of the cure three years ago in a letter addressed by Mrs. Whately to a friend in Cheltenham. The editor of the *Family Herald*, who is equally distinguished for his high, moral, and intellectual attainments, and by whose talents that most useful and entertaining periodical has attained the enormous circulation of 130,000 weekly, has attested the reality of the cure in his editorial capacity. The case is attested by the following witnesses.

M. Child, Curtain Road,
William Child, Tailor, Curtain Road,

* The best have been called Atheists by their foes. In the *Dictionnaire des Athées* are the following names so stigmatized:—"The Anglican divines, Berkeley, Clarke, Cudworth, Hall, Sherlock, and Whitby;—the foreign protestant theologians, Pierre Dumoulin, Jurieu, Basnage, and Beausobre;—the religious reformers, Wickliffe, Luther, Melancthon, Beza, and Osiander;—the religious philosophers, Grotius, Locke, Newton, Leibnitz, and Lambert; and Descartes, Malebranche, and Pascal;—the intolerant Justus Lipsius;—the pre-adamitical La Peyrère; the half-witted Postel;—the popish theologians, Cardinals Baronius, and Bellarminus, the intolerant Bossuet, the mystic Fenelon, the pious sceptics Hirnhaym and Huet, the cabalistical Gaffarel, the turn-coat Felisson, and a host of other zealots, Garasse, Mersenne, Jansenius, Arnault, Houteville, &c., &c. We have even most of the fathers of the church; Augustinus, Chrysostomus, Athanasius, Gregorius Nazianzenus, Lactantius, Dionysius Areopagita, Cyprianus, Minucius Felix, Tertullianus, and Justinus!; nay, St. Paul of Tarsus, and the evangelist St. John!!; and, to crown all, the venerated name of Jesus!!!"—*Zoist*.

Ellen Wallace,
 Mary Baner,
 Samuel Baker,
 Clarissa Caporn,
 Martha Cole, } 16, Gloucester Terrace, Kensington.

I hope to send for the next number of *The Zoist* another cure of blindness, effected three years ago, on a girl of 11 years old, whom I also cured of fits, and who lost the sight of one eye from small pox when a year old.

ELIZA WALLACE.

48, Regent Street,
 June 21st.

P.S. I regret to say that in the frequent changes of residence that have occurred to me for the last two years, that portion of my mesmeric journal relating to the cure of Alexander Mason's blindness has been lost or mislaid, and I am consequently obliged to limit myself to such details as memory will supply.

For the last two years I have been engaged in maturing and bringing out the various inventions embodied in my patent. These pursuits brought me into contact with several practical men of science, and among these I have made some valuable converts. First on the list I feel proud of placing the name of Mr. Robertson, the highly talented editor of the *Mechanics' Magazine*—a work which Lord Brougham compliments as having spread scientific knowledge throughout the land by means within the reach of all. I cannot recall to memory several other high authorities who bear testimony to the utility of this widely circulating scientific journal so ably edited by Mr. Robertson for 25 years.

I commenced Mr. Robertson's conversion by directing his attention to the cases of Dr. Esdaile and others contained in *The Zoist*; and Mr. Sandby's valuable book, *Mesmerism and its Opponents*, completed the work I had begun. This book, he observed, contained such a body of evidence as must bring conviction to any reasoning mind unbiassed by prejudices. He lent the volume to his friend, Mr. Hudson, a highly distinguished mathematician, who was convinced by its forcible reasonings, commenced experimenting for himself, and succeeded in perceiving some highly satisfactory mesmeric phenomena, and Mr. Robertson expects soon to rank mesmerism among the *physical sciences*, and thus enable it to assume a place in the *Mechanics' Magazine*!

Mr. Robertson says he "is spreading mesmerism right and left among his mathematical friends," and requests his name may be added to the list of subscribers to the Mesmeric Hospital.

I cannot conclude without congratulating Dr. Elliotson, as the head of our great cause, on the powerful allies who are daily flocking to our standard. The editor of the *Family Herald* assures me that,

since the publication of the cure of cancer and Mrs. Whately's cure of blindness, he is inundated with letters on mesmerism; but his notices of the subject must necessarily be limited from the character of the paper.

In his editorial capacity he will satisfy any correspondents as to the reality of Alexander Mason's cure, as he witnessed the gradual improvement of his sight; and this is the case he mentions in the article relating to Mrs. Whately's cure. What a happiness it is for the world at large that a publication like the *Family Herald* spreads the knowledge of such an astonishing science as mesmerism over the length and breadth of the land, while what are termed the leading journals of the day dignify themselves by advertizing quack medicines, and devote whole columns to the balls of Lady A., and the dinners of Lord B.!

Time will show whether the prophecy of some of my Cheltenham friends (?) will prove correct; they, I understand, having predicted that my "patent, like mesmerism, will end in smoke!"

I have just learned, through the medium of a highly respectable medical man in T—— Street, who saw "the great Dr. Elliotson's" carriage at my house, and was employed at St. Thomas's Hospital when Dr. Elliotson was physician to it, that his popularity among the patients was so great that the Irish considered him next to God in the cure of disease and felt disposed to invoke him as a saint!

XII. *Ultimate Success of Mesmerism in Mr. Parsons's Case of Cataleptic Insanity.* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

I AM delighted to forward the following conclusion of Mr. Parsons's case. Let our adversaries bear witness that we are anxious for truth only, and that all our difficulties and failures are faithfully detailed. Mr. Parsons's candour was shewn forth in the last number, and now he meets with the reward of his truthfulness, benevolence, and perseverance.

J. ELLIOTSON.

Royal Marine Library,
June 12th, 1849.

My dear Sir,—It is time that I should report to you that the case of Frank Walker, which was stated as concluded in No. XXV., page 1, of *The Zoist*, but which there appears to have an unfavourable termination, has since been committed to my care again, and I can pronounce him cured.

My last notice of him was dated March 7th, page 21: a few lines will suffice to conclude the case.

March 22nd. The mother sent a beseeching message to me to come to her boy, as he was dreadfully ill and had been insensible for some hours.

This was occasioned by a shock from a distressing family matter, which was of a nature to wound him in his weak point—pride; and, on hearing of it he was so shocked that he immediately went raving mad, and then fell into a rigid fit of insensibility, in which condition he had remained for four hours when I arrived.

I mesmerised him, and soon obtained complete control over him. He directed in his sleep-waking that he should be “mesmerised again to-morrow, but no more to-day.”

March 23rd. He was raving mad all day yesterday after I left him, but has been quite sane to-day; at his request he was mesmerised a quarter of an hour. His description of his state is, that the *top* of his head (Veneration) was most *hurt* this time, and only a little darkness at Self-esteem; but that all was fast passing off, and he would be quite well to-morrow.

March 24th. He has had no return of his fits, and says that he will not want mesmerising after to-day: he was only kept asleep 10 minutes. I left him now, and he continued well.

On the 12th of April he came to see me, and was looking very well, and had had no relapse. He told me that he had abstained from coming because he felt that he should not be able to keep awake; but now feeling within himself that the susceptibility was abated, if not vanished, he ventured to call on me. He took the precaution of putting copper into his pockets, but he did not go to sleep when it was removed at my request.

I saw him again during the first week of this month (June), and he continues in his usual health, or as *he* says, better than he was before his attack.

You, my dear Sir, and every other helper in the cause, will, I know, rejoice with me that mesmerism has not been deprived of its fair honours in this interesting case. I feel assured that time will consolidate the cure, and the longer he remains without a shock calculated to bring on a relapse, the less power such matters will have to disturb his health; and, if at any time a relapse should be untowardly occasioned, the remedy is well known and simple, and we can predict, as confidently as it is possible in human affairs, that it will be speedily effectual.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

W. H. PARSONS.

To Dr. Elliotson.

XIII. *Review of Mr. G. Cornewall Lewis's Strictures on Mesmerism and Phrenology.* By the Rev. GEORGE SANDBY, M.A., Vicar of Flixton, Suffolk.

"In the study of nature and its laws, we ought at once to make up our minds to dismiss as idle prejudices, or at least suspend as premature, any preconceived notion of what might, or what *ought*, to be the order of nature in any proposed case, and content ourselves with observing as a plain matter of fact, *what is*."—*Herschell's Preliminary Discourse*, p. 79.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Flixton, Suffolk, June 5, 1849.

SIR,—Dugald Stewart, in his *Outlines of Moral Philosophy*, among the "causes," that he offers, "for the slow progress of human knowledge," specifies "a disposition to grasp at general principles, without *submitting to the previous study of particular facts*," p. 10. Perhaps no subject has suffered more from this tendency, or would more sustain the truthfulness of the philosopher's remark, than that of mesmerism. In writing upon mesmerism, an author finds it far easier to dispose of the question by a "*reverence for great names, and under the influence of local institutions*," (to quote Dugald Stewart's causes again;) than to exercise an independent self-relying judgment, and to pass through this "*previous study of particular facts*." Inquiry demands time, industry, patience; a little off-hand speculation, from his easy chair, uncorrected by the troublesome revision of practical experience, answers the immediate purpose of many a writer, and enables him to assume all the importance of close investigation, especially if his pages be well packed with copious citations from works of authority. A solemn sentence is thus pronounced, with all the pomposity of a pedant, but at the same time with all the haste of a school-boy, "full of sound, but signifying nothing;" and the only truth to be learned is, that the author himself presents an additional illustration of the justice of his own remarks, should he have aimed at enlightening the public with explanatory views on the "slow progress of human knowledge."

I have been led into these observations by the perusal of a clever, pleasant, and not uninteresting book, written too in an agreeable vein, but exhibiting a scholastic parade of various reading, and much philosophic *pretension*. It is a thick octavo, calling itself, *An Essay on the Influence of Authority in Matters of Opinion*. The writer, Mr. G. Cornewall Lewis, is a well-known character in the *bureau-cratic* world; he has before appeared as an author with some effect; for a few years was one of that formidable triumvirate at Somerset

House, whose dicta decided such momentous questions on pauper diet and discipline; and he is now comfortably established at Whitehall, as Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, and is, moreover, a Member of Parliament for the county of Hereford. Our readers, therefore, can see at a glance, that he is a man of might,—one who expects to be listened to,—one, too, who has been for some time in the habit of “laying down the law,” *with or without* a reason. Perhaps, too, they would think that, with his official and parliamentary duties our ex-dictator (as *The Times* would call him) had enough on his hands: but no, he finds time to indite this goodly volume, containing allusions to almost every subject under the sun,—and amongst the topics on which he condescends to assist us in our judgment, are the interesting questions of mesmerism and phrenology.

These our author with grave authority pronounces to be “mock sciences,” “pseudo-sciences,” “spurious sciences,” (p. 51, &c.) and fortunately gives us his reasons for so describing them. I shall confine my remarks to the subject of mesmerism, and analyse those reasons in succession; the reader will not find them very formidable or conclusive, and will probably think that Mr. Lewis has shewn more haste than knowledge in thus propounding them.

I. He says,

“Mesmerism and phrenology have now been before the world a sufficient time to be fully and fairly examined by competent judges; and as they have not stood the test of impartial scientific investigation, and therefore have not established themselves in professional opinion, they may be safely, on this ground alone, set down under the head of *mock sciences*; though, as in the case of alchemy, the researches to which they give rise, and the new hypotheses which they promulgate, may assist in promoting genuine science.” p. 51.

I quite agree with Mr. Lewis, that mesmerism “has now been before the world a sufficient time to be fully and fairly examined by competent judges;” but if these refuse so to examine it, is “time” the test? and query, what time? Twenty years? fifty years? or a century? “Time” is a dangerous doctrine, and may be pushed much farther than our author now purposes; nay, he himself shall presently furnish the best reply to his own statement. But, in the first place, is mesmerism proved *not to be a fact in nature*? and, secondly, *how long* has it, as a study, really been before the world? To date from the days of Mesmer himself, rather more than sixty years: (a strong argument one would rather think to prove its reality;) but if we calculate from the period in which it has really been brought forward in a philosophical

way, scarcely thirty: and what is this "time" in the history of a science, against which the strongest prepossessions and the most powerful influences showed themselves from the very first? Have not the same tedious lapse of time and the same slow growth of opinion been manifested over and over again, on numerous other subjects, which are now firmly established?

Take electricity. Dr. Lardner, in his history, tells us that *centuries* elapsed from the first indication or discovery of that principle, before it grew into anything like an admitted fact. In truth, it has been only within comparatively recent times, that any close attention has been paid to the subject by the scientific world: and now how vast is its empire!

Look at certain of the Newtonian discoveries, and see their early history! Mr. Lewis is too well read in science not to be familiar with that chapter: to some of our readers, however, the following curious passage may be new.

Professor Playfair, in the Third Dissertation, *Encyclopædia Britannica*, (section, Astronomy,) speaking of "the splendour of Newton's discoveries, and the beauty and grandeur of the system they unfolded," particularly as they refer to his views on the motion of comets in preference to the older theory of Descartes, says, "One would hardly doubt that to be received, it required only to be known, and that the establishment of the Newtonian philosophy all over Europe would very quickly have followed the publication of it." But he adds, "that for more than *thirty years* after the publication, the system of vortices kept its ground;" and it is now known that the views of Newton were only introduced into the University of Cambridge by a curious literary stratagem, viz., the publication of a Cartesian work, with notes opposing and refuting the text, and explaining the opinions of Newton (p. 566).

Professor Playfair adds, after Voltaire, that though "the author of the *Principia* survived the publication of that great work *nearly forty years*, he had not, at the time of his death, twenty followers out of England." (p. 567.)

It is needless, however, to pursue this line of argument, and produce other instances: Mr. Lewis, at the expense unluckily of his consistency, shall furnish the best answer to his own doctrine of "time;" and if we be asked, why it is that mesmerism has not "yet established itself in professional opinion?" we can reply with our author, that

"Men are influenced by the prevailing fashion. They fear singularity more than error; they accept numbers as the index of truth, and they follow the crowd. The dislike of labour, the fear of unpo-

pularity, the danger even of setting up individual opinion against established convictions, and the voice of the multitude contribute to strengthen this inclination." (p. 15.)

Again, he says,

"There may be an excessive reverence for scientific doctrines handed down from a former age, and received among existing philosophers, which may check the due force of investigations, perpetuate error, prevent originality of thought and the discovery of new truths, and maintain science in a stationary and unimproving state."

How true this is! and how well expressed!—and if we wanted further argument, we should find it in his own notes to this very passage, in his extracts from Bacon, Cicero, &c., &c., (p. 367.)

Mr. Lewis writes so well, and answers his own arguments so completely, that he must not think it tedious to be quoted again.

"Opinions are propagated at a slower rate of velocity. . . . When the general agreement of competent judges has accredited a new opinion, it is not diffused instantaneously by their authority. . . . Being addressed to the understanding, and being founded on *an induction of facts, often numerous, dissimilar and complex*, the examination and verification of the reasons, &c., is a tedious process." (p. 392.)*

The above extracts adequately meet the assertion of Mr. Lewis, that mesmerism has now had "a sufficiency of time;" and to these may be added the constant persevering refusal of our leading medical and scientific men even to *witness* the effects of mesmerism. Not content with broaching a *priori* arguments against the possibility of its existence, they actually decline all personal examination of the subject: and then mesmerism is set down by Mr. Lewis "under the head of a mock-science," because it is not yet "established in professional opinion." With the pertinacity that men have hitherto displayed in avoiding the study as an inconvenient truth, it would be difficult to say, how it could be yet established.

But Mr. Lewis adds, that mesmerism "has not stood the test of impartial scientific investigation." Indeed? *Who tells him so?* Who is his "authority in the matter of *this* opinion?" and does he speak after *competent*, and *honest* testimony? "*Well-placed confidence*," he tells us at the conclusion of his book, is "one of the main elements of civilization," and to teach us where to place it, is the purport of his whole volume: I think, therefore, that I may very naturally

* Mr. Lewis here gives us a note on the slow diffusion of knowledge, with reference to Professor Whewell respecting the reception of the Newtonian theory, of the Linnæan system, of Harvey's discovery, &c.

ask him, who is *his* authority for this somewhat bold assertion? Is it his medical man? and does he (to use a homely but expressive phrase) make a *pope of his apothecary*—of one, who perhaps has reasons of his own for decrying this very study, and pours into the ear of his literary familiar the prejudiced feelings of uninquiring pride? or does Mr. Lewis rely on his own judgment and experience? Surely, not! Our learned under-secretary himself admits, that “no man is a competent judge on *all* subjects;” (p. 165) and that “every subject has in its turn its own peculiar set of competent judges which vary for each;” (p. 167,) and he must, therefore, allow me to tell him in reply, that when mesmerism *has been* examined by “impartial and scientific” men, *who have not been afraid of following it up*, it has not been found wanting, (unless, perhaps, we make an exception for clairvoyance;) and that great names could be mentioned, as believers in its truth. But as I suspect that Mr. Lewis is sadly ignorant, for an author, of the present *status* and prospects of mesmerism, and of the vast progress which it has recently made in public opinion,—he must allow me to ask him one or two questions.

For instance, does he know of the “gigantic surgical operations” that have taken place in India, under the management of Dr. Esdaile, more than a hundred in number?

Does he know that many more than 200 operations have also taken place in England and France, during the mesmeric state,—for, thanks to chloroform, insensibility to pain is no longer regarded as an incredible fact in physiological annals?

Does Mr. Lewis know of the numerous cures that have occurred and are now occurring under mesmeric treatment, cures of blindness, epilepsy, tic douloureux, insanity, rheumatism, &c.?

Does he know *who* and *what* are the class of persons, who superintend or carry on this treatment, numerous medical, philosophical and scientific men, whose adhesion would do honor to any study?

Does he know that a quarterly journal (*The Zoist*) exists for the purpose of recording mesmeric facts as they arise, and that this journal is now in the *seventh* year of its publication?

Does he know the altered language of medical journals on this subject? and that *the British and Foreign Medical Review*, an old opponent, lately said, that the “evidence respecting mesmerism is *now of such a character* that it can no longer be philosophically disregarded?”

Of all this, and sundry other essential points, our busy

ex-commissioner probably knows little; but being assured that mesmerism is merely advocated by a few eccentric parties, he rushes to a general assertion "without submitting to the previous study of particular facts," unmindful of a golden observation made by Sir John Herschell: viz., that by "Prejudices of opinion, we mean opinions hastily taken up, either from the *assertions of others*, from our own *superficial views*, or from vulgar observation." (P. D. 80.)

II. Mr. Lewis next observes, that,

"True sciences connect themselves with other true sciences: analogies and points of contact between the new truth, and truths formerly known are perceived. Pseudo-sciences, on the other hand, remain in an equivocal state. No analogies or affiliations with genuine sciences are discovered; . . . if any connexion is attempted to be proved, it is with another spurious science, as in the case of phreno-mesmerism, where one delusion is supported by another."

It might have been thought, that when two such studies as phrenology and mesmerism, perfectly independent the one of the other, presented an unexpected harmony and "point of contact," that a doubt might arise with even the most sceptical, as to whether *both* might not be *true*: but as it appears according to this new school of "authority," that that is an argument why *both are false*, we must pass onwards from the extraordinary phenomena developed by phreno-mesmerism, and see if we cannot discover some more orthodox "affiliation" with "true science."

And is Mr. Lewis unaware of the close analogy that observers have detected over and over again between sundry phenomena of mesmerism, and certain effects educed in electricity, galvanism, and magnetism,—so close, indeed, that the terms "animal" or "vital magnetism" are regarded by many as the more appropriate appellations for our science, and that the Germans have invented the name "electro-physiology" for its title? Has Mr. Lewis read Reichenbach's *Treatise on a Supposed New Imponderable*, with Professor Gregory's comments? Has he read Mr. Chauncy Townsend's work on Mesmerism, with the chapter on the "Mesmeric Medium," M. Charpignon's *Etudes Physiques sur le Magnétisme Animal*, M. Petétin's *Electricité Animale*, &c., and sundry other French and English works, all pointing to an analogy so striking, that our author would have shewn a judicious caution in not rejecting them?

Of course, in experiments upon the living human frame, we cannot predict the same accuracy of result as the philosopher obtains in dead matter. Our infinite diversity of constitutions, our changes in health, strength, and suscepti-

bility, &c., all render a close approximation between the truths of the exact sciences and the truths of mesmerism uncertain, if not unattainable. But on this point, I prefer quoting the judicious views of our author himself.

"There are departments of physics, in which observation is more difficult, and in which many of the phenomena elude our powers of investigation. . . . Such, for example, is physiology. The functions of the living body are in great part, withdrawn from the observation of the senses, &c. . . . There is uncertainty as to the influence of medicines, regimen," &c. (p. 136.)

Here, in his own words, is the cause why "a point of contact between our new truth and truths formerly known is not more closely perceived:" the nature of things forbids it: still an approximation is being discovered every day; and yet Mr. Lewis, in ignorance of this fact, and in forgetfulness of his own reasonings, calls mesmerism a "mock and spurious science."

III. Our author next says,

"Another means of distinguishing real from unreal sciences may be found in the *character and objects* of the persons by whom they are respectively engaged. The professors of genuine sciences, for the most part, make the investigation of truth their primary object. . . . The charlatan is actuated by the love of gain. His purpose is to dupe the world, and to extract money, &c. Of this, Mesmer affords an example on a large scale. Occasionally, there may be a love of attracting attention, but gain is the leading motive."

A more unfortunate reason, perhaps, never escaped from any writer. To pass over this hit at Mesmer, on a point in which there is considerable doubt, I would admit, that there are mercenaries in the camp of magnetism, as among every other body of inquirers. Astronomy and geology have their itinerant lecturers, who are "actuated by a love of gain," and a necessity of living: chemistry has its votaries who have to feed upon something else beside "truth;" and we have yet to learn that "*professors* even of the genuine science" of anatomy are the most disinterested and pure minded of mortals: but to tax mesmerism with being a pseudo-science, in consequence of the "*character and objects*" of the parties by whom it is pursued, shews an absence of information that ought to be mortifying to an honourable mind. To test mesmerism by this rule, would bring it out of the fire the truest and most exact of sciences. We could desire no better ordeal. Perhaps no single study, in the history of the world, has ever, within a given period, brought out more gratuitous, unbought, unpurchasable labour for the benefit of man, than the practice of this art. Perhaps, in no single subject, has an unadulterated

love of truth, for its own sake and in spite of ridicule and injury, been more strikingly or more frequently exhibited. It is notorious, that numerous mesmerists go from house to house amongst their poorest and humblest neighbours, through weeks and weeks of unremitting toil and anxiety, seeking to assuage the cruelest and most tedious maladies, without a wish, or a prospect, or a thought of remuneration! I name no names, or what a list of Christian philanthropists—male and female—might be placed before our author! “Gain their leading motive, and a love of attracting attention!” Mr. Lewis, in his snug and well paid quarters, and surrounded by those tomes of learning with which he would appear to be solely conversant, has no belief in that retiring but practical benevolence, which renders mesmerism one of the greatest boons to the afflicted, or he would have spared observations that are at once unfounded in fact and no more applicable to a mesmerist than they are to himself.

IV. “Genuine science,” says Mr. L. in conclusion, “is simple, precise, devoid of ornament, free from all undue contrivances for exciting applause. Charlatanism is tricky, obtrusive, full of display, &c., &c.”

It cannot be denied that many a mesmeric exhibitor, both in private and in public, occasionally merits the term of Charlatan, by promising more than he can fulfil, and by building general conclusions upon isolated facts: but what of that? Mr. Lewis would not surely have a *law condemned from the blunders of its administrator*: and why should a science be thus denounced through the faults or follies of its followers? If Mr. Lewis were ever present with those, whose practice of the art might entitle them to be regarded as leaders in the study, he would learn that mesmerism could be as simple and as free from adventitious matter, as the sternness of the sciences; he would see the magnetist with calmness and patience conducting his work, following nature where she leads him, sitting at her feet as a learner rather than a teacher, recording facts and not expounding theories, and, with all humility, pleading ignorance and doubt where such confessions are the mark of a sound and lofty wisdom. Real practical philosophy is as much to be found in the sick room of a mesmerised patient, as at the lectures of Faraday, or in the hall of the Royal Institution.

Our readers by this time may be enabled to judge how far Mr. Lewis is entitled to guide public opinion to the extent to which the ambitious character of his book clearly shews that he deems himself competent. They will have seen that he is not *constans sibi*,—that he is contradictory and often super-

ficial, and too much under the influence of ill-formed, raw prepossessions : at the same time it would be absurd to deny that this *Essay* contains a large amount of valuable matter, and shews the writer, on some subjects, to be a deep and judicious thinker. Still I suspect, that if a manipulator took the guage of Mr. Lewis's forehead, and examined the higher regions of his brain on those principles which he himself regards as spurious and fantastic, the *mock science* of phrenology would be found to tell too true a tale, for that his organization would denote a clever, acute, thinking man, gifted with a strong memory and the talent of arranging his ideas in a clear and agreeable order, but at the same time deficient in that strength and power of mind which qualifies a writer to take one uniform, masterful view of a large and comprehensive subject, and that with all his abilities and all his reading the author of this volume could never be accepted as a safe and final "authority in matters of opinion."

I remain, Mr. Editor,

Your humble servant,

GEORGE SANDBY.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Curative results of Medical Somnambulism, consisting of several authenticated cases, including the Somnambule's own case and cure. By Madame Baumann.

This is but an eighteenpenny pamphlet, and contains accounts of several very satisfactory cures. We have reason to believe that dependence may be placed upon the narratives. The lady herself was cured with mesmerism, and became so clairvoyant as successfully to direct her own cure of chronic rheumatism to which her physicians had condemned her for life, and of incipient blindness. She acquired the same kind of clairvoyance respecting the diseases of others. The other cures related were of threatening consumption (three cases),—vomiting of four years' standing,—chronic inflammation of the uterus (three cases),—indigestion,—a general bad state of body—more or less blindness (three cases),—chronic rheumatism—probably ovarian dropsy,—scrofulous swellings and ulcers—spinal affection,—affection of the heart,—convulsions,—chronic inflammation of the eyes, after the failure of Mr. Alexander and the surgeon of the Ophthalmic Hospital,—deafness,—tic douloureux,—palsy of the legs,—sleeplessness and vomiting,—a remarkable case of cure of fistula in a military officer,—and one no less remarkable of a tumor of the uterus, reminding us of Miss Martineau's case, and well deserving the perusal of Dr. Forbes and Miss Martineau's medical attendant and relative, Mr. Greenhow, who both spoke so shockingly of the latter lady's case.

Letters on the Truths contained in Popular Superstitions. By Herbert Mayo, M.D. Frankfurt.

The original letters appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine* in 1847. The author is not Dr. Mayo whose name appeared in our two last numbers, but the surgeon of physiological note who was professor of surgery at King's College and surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital. A crippling rheumatism compelled him to relinquish practice, and he now directs a water-cure establishment on the Rhine and announces himself as Dr. Herbert Mayo.

He fearlessly declared his conviction of the truth of mesmerism eleven years ago, and published a succession of reports in Longman's *Medical Gazette* of the

experiments which he saw Dr. Elliotson make in University College Hospital that will repay the trouble of perusal. The popular superstitions of which he attempts to explain the fundamental truths relate to the *divining rod*, the popular statements respecting which we consider well established,—*campyrisms*—*unreal ghosts*—*real ghosts*, (both which we are satisfied are the same, though Dr. H. Mayo writes what appears to us "perilous stuff" upon the latter,—*trance*, in the chapter on which and in a few other places much that appears to us gross nonsense is written,—*somnambulism*,—*cataplexy*,—*religious delusion*,—*mesmerism*. There are not only groundless and illogical opinions here and there, but errors; still the work is very interesting and we admire the following passage:—

"A new truth has to encounter three normal stages of opposition. In the first, it is denounced as an imposture. In the second, that is, when it is beginning to force itself into notice, it is cursorily examined and plausibly explained away. In the third, or '*cui bono*' stage, it is decried as useless, and hostile to religion. And when it is finally admitted, it passes only under a protest that it has been perfectly known for ages—a proceeding intended to make the new truth ashamed of itself, and wish it had never been born.

"I congratulate the sea-serpent on having arrived at the second stage of belief. Since Professor Owen (no disrespect to his genuine ability and eminent knowledge) has explained it into a sea—elephant, its chance of being itself is much improved; and as it will skip the third stage, for who will venture to question the good of a sea-serpent, it is liable now any morning 'to wake and find itself famous;' and to be received even at Lincoln's-inn-fields, where its remains may commemoratively be ticketted the Ex-Great-Seal." p. 21.

And again:—"Many do not dream how barbarous and backward the vaunted nineteenth century will appear to posterity!" p. 40.

Bristol Mesmeric Institute. Report of the First Public Meeting: The Right Hon. The Earl of Ducie in the Chair.

Outlines of a New System of Physiognomy, illustrated by numerous engravings, indicating the signs of the different mental faculties. By J. W. Redfield, M.D. Fourth Thousand. New York.

The Ethnological Journal for April.

Hospital Reports and other official documents relative to the trials of Warburg's Fever Tincture (*Tinctura Warburgi*) in cases of Intermittent and other Fevers, instituted by order of the Austrian Government. Translated from the German. London.

Railways, Past, Present, and Prospective. By R. M. Martin, Esq., author of the Taxation of the British Empire, &c., &c. London, Second Edition, with additions.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We much regret that want of space compels us to postpone several very interesting articles—Capital Punishment, or Murder according to law, by L. E. G. E.—on the Magic Crystal by Mr. Hockley,—on the Will by Mr. H. S. Thompson,—on Cross-Mesmerism by Mr. Cattell,—on Thought-reading and Clairvoyance by W. F. S.,—Cases from Miss Aglionby and two other ladies, Mr. Armour, Mr. Barth, Capt. Bagnold, Mr. Davey, Mr. Elliot, Mr. J. Hands, Mr. Harley, Lieut. Hare, Mr. Jacob, Dr. Storer, Mr. Saunders, Mr. H. S. Thompson, and Mr. Tubbs.

ERRATA IN NO. XXIV., VOL. VI.

- p. 385, l. 9, for "E. M.," read "E. H."
 p. 385, l. 36, for "but I left her drowsy, and, though she afterwards tried to shake off the drowsiness, she passed another sleepy night," read "but I left her drowsy, the influence of which (after I left) she resisted, and thus passed another sleepless night."
 p. 388, l. 8, for "better," read "hotter."
 p. 389, l. 14, for "William Farmer," read "William Forman."
 p. 389, l. 34, for "Mary M.," read "Mary H."
 p. 390, l. 9, for "cambo," read "at Cambo."